

SEVEN SECTIONS: THE BEST VALUE SATURDAY PAPER

EXCLUSIVE Gitta Sereny Mary Bell *and me* WEEKEND

WIN A MINI page 25 *metro*

Gloria Estefan Queen of Miami *magazine*

Hunks in trunks WEEKEND

THE TIMES

40

No. 66,191 SATURDAY MAY 2 1998 <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Tories cash in on the countryside marchers

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE organisers of the Countryside March are under investigation for selling a list of 30,000 members' names and addresses to the Conservative Party.

The people on the list promptly received a personal letter from William Hague seeking donations for a fighting fund "to provide a voice for the countryside". But while some responded with donations of up to £1,000, others were angry that their membership was being "exploited".

The Countryside Alliance, avowedly a non-political organisation formed to fight for rural Britain, could now sell a further 50,000 names to Tory Central Office, which is expected to pay a total of £10,000.

The Alliance's membership form states: "From time to time you may be sent information on related organisations about related goods and services. If you do not wish to receive these, tick the box."

But last night the Data Protection Registrar, which controls the transfer of personal details from one organisation to another, announced an inquiry. David Smith, the assistant registrar, said: "We would not regard a political party as a related good or service. We do not accept that someone who chooses to join the Countryside Alliance would expect their details to be passed on to political parties unless the membership literature clearly states so. Small print is not sufficient either. We will conduct an immediate inquiry."

In his letter to alliance members, Mr Hague depicts the Tories as the guardian of the countryside and attacks Labour for its opposition to hunting with hounds, Green Belt development, the beef-on-the-bone ban, and the proposed "right to roam" law.

He writes: "If we are to speak for those who — like you — care passionately about countryside issues, we need your support. I would be very grateful if you would be kind enough to complete the enclosed form and return it with a donation in the response envelope provided. Thank you."

Elliot Morley, the Countryside Minister who angered Labour Party officials by refusing to attend the

march saying it had been hijacked by the Tories, welcomed the investigation. He said: "I always thought that the Countryside Alliance had a right-wing agenda. The move to sell the names and addresses of many people, who may have joined for genuine and sensible reasons, bears this out. People are entitled to protection under data protection laws."

David Coulthred, head of public affairs at the League Against Cruel Sports, said: "This exposes that the Countryside Alliance is little more than a mouthpiece for pro-hunting Tories. They have sold out on genuine rural interests and cannot claim to represent the countryside."

One supporter of the Countryside Alliance, who declined to be named, said: "I was furious to get a letter from William Hague. I support the countryside but not the Tories. I would object equally if the letter came from Tony Blair. It is a cheek."

But a spokesman for the Countryside Alliance said: "We will not kick the Conservatives in the teeth. They object to the ban on hunting while Labour do not. We will send our mailing list to any reputable organisation. Labour can have it if they want it, but so far they have not sought it. Any members who object can have their names removed from the list."

Conservative Central Office said: "We often buy in membership lists. The countryside is a very good area for us."

The Countryside Alliance brought together 250,000 protesters for a rally against Labour's rural policies in March. It is an umbrella organisation for the former Countryside Movement, British Field Sports Society and Countryside Business Group, and has long been suspected of being a faction of the Tory party — its chairman, Charles Goodson-Wickes, was until last year a Conservative MP.

Mr Hague exploited the rally to parade the Tories' countryside credentials. By contrast Government ministers were in disarray over whether to attend amid charge and counter charge that Tory landowners, or even the gun lobby, had funded the demonstration.



The model Vanessa Haydon, who has caught the eye of the actor Leonardo DiCaprio, below

Titanic star falls for model intellect

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

LEONARDO DICAPRIO, the actor whose name has been linked to a squadron of beauties, has found "true love" — but he has had to work hard for it.

The 23-year-old star of *Titanic* has reportedly fallen for Vanessa Haydon, 20, the daughter of a prominent Manhattan lawyer who is tipped by many fashion pundits to be "the supermodel of the new millennium".

A source close to DiCaprio said: "Vanessa is very intelligent. She has a high IQ and she is studying for a college degree. She wasn't just bowled over by the 'Hi, I'm Leonardo DiCaprio' line. Leo had to pull out all the stops."

Miss Haydon is tight-lipped about the affair, and has retreated into the bosom of her supportive family. Her 81-year-old father, Charles Haydon, is said to be very protective of his young daughter.

Her agent, Judy Linton, said yesterday: "She's just starting out in modelling. She and her family aren't really ready to talk." She said he was a "friend of the family".



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Policeman convicted of sex attacks

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICE officer was yesterday convicted of raping two women and indecently assaulting a third after taking them out on dates.

John Blott, 33, a uniformed constable with the Cleveland Constabulary for ten years, is to be sentenced in a fortnight after a report has been prepared. But Mr Justice Hooper told him that a "substantial" jail term was inevitable.

Blott, a former professional footballer, had used his status as a policeman to gain the women's confidence before asking them out. Once with them, he used a ruse to take them to his home where they were sexually assaulted, often violently. Afterwards he would drive them home as if nothing had happened.

The policeman stood impassively as the jury returned their verdicts at Leeds Crown Court. He was found not guilty of two assaults and was cleared at the judge's direction of a third.

Bank dispute overshadows launch of single currency

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE euro will today become a reality for 11 countries as the European Union takes the biggest leap for integration since the Common Market was founded in 1957.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, spoke of his confidence that the single currency would succeed as finance ministers in Brussels last night appointed France, Germany, Portugal, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium, Ireland and Spain as members of the first wave to be launched on January 1.

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, said it was inevitable that Britain would follow. It was not a question of if but when.

But as the Brussels meeting was proceeding, Tony Blair was leading last-minute efforts to prevent today's historic launch being overshadowed by the dispute over who will be in overall charge of managing the single currency.

The Prime Minister, who as President of the EU will chair today's celebrations in Brus-



Soggy April gives way to holiday sun

BY ADAM FRESKO

THE weather for the bank holiday weekend is set to improve on recent days, and on the wettest April since 1818, with temperatures reaching 61F (16C) in Wales. The west of England is also forecast to be sunny with the south and east seeing some showers coupled with brighter spells that will cover the rest of the country.

The warmer, drier weather could tempt more people to leave home for the bank holiday and the AA has warned drivers that all major roads are going to be busy. A spokeswoman said: "The whole of the M25 is going to be heavy going, the M6 has roadworks on junctions 39 to 40 in Cumbria leading to closure of one lane in both directions and it is going to be busy around all the larger towns like Birmingham and Manchester whichever way you are heading."

The April rains have caused the cancellation of the Wallingford Regatta in Oxfordshire for the first time in its 46-year history.

During the Easter holidays

Australia \$3.00; Belgium 8 Fr 11.00; Canada \$3.50; Canada Fr 15.00; Czech 21.00; Denmark 16.00; Finland 36.50; France 18.00; Germany 33.45; Gibraltar 50p; Greece 16.00; Hong Kong 4.50; Hungary 11.00; Iceland 110.00; Ireland 12.00; Italy 1.450; Luxembourg 11.00; Malta 1.50; Netherlands 11.00; New Zealand 1.450; Norway 27.00; Portugal 20.00; Spain 16.50; Sweden 11.00; Switzerland 5 Fr 3.50; Taiwan 33.00; Thailand 5.50; United Kingdom 1.00; USA \$3.50.

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THE ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT

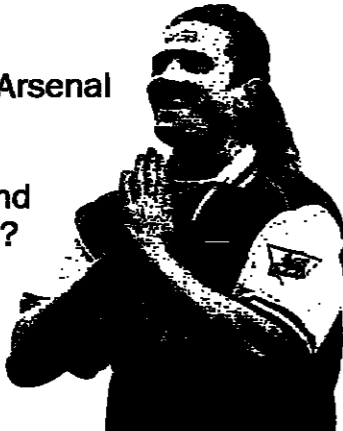
FICTION MADE FACT. THE BOOK THAT CHANGED THE CIA.

NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

Under the skin of sport

MONDAY

Football: have Arsenal clinched the Premiership? Who goes up and who goes down? Snooker: the final frames of the World Championship



Fashion: street chic for kids

Plus

Collect tokens to win World Cup tickets

TUESDAY

Jason Cowley meets Nobel prize-winning author Toni Morrison

WEDNESDAY

Inter//face: can computers deliver holidays on the moon?

Hot tickets: The Times critics select the summer's best shows Plus: Crème - best for jobs

THURSDAY

Films: will Martha meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence be the new Four Weddings? Plus: the verdict on Lolita. Bel Mooney on porn



FRIDAY

Rock and pop

SATURDAY

In the Magazine:

Ginny Dougary: at the court of Imelda Marcos



Police shoot terror suspect dead

By Audrey Magee, Martin Fletcher and Nicholas Watt

A REPUBLICAN terrorist was shot dead yesterday during an attempted raid on a security van in Ireland. The man, understood to be a dissident republican linked to the breakaway Continuity IRA, was killed while preparing a roadblock outside Ashford, Co Wicklow.

tracking the gang. The two sides opened fire and the man was hit in the crossfire. The remaining five men, who were armed with an AK47, two handguns and an RPG rocket launcher, were arrested. The shooting came after Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, told the British Army yesterday to give up its "territorial mindset" and dismantle security installations in South Armagh.

unfortunate that the people of South Armagh, nearly 12 months into a ceasefire, should be still treated as if they were living in occupied territory," said Mr Ahern. "We for our part have showed ourselves prepared to modify a territorial mindset that has contributed to conflict. It is reasonable to expect that the British Army also give up its territorial mindset."

"There has to be a clear signal given by the armed groups that with a settlement in place they are going to wind up their activities. Otherwise, they will make life very difficult for the political parties that represent them," said Mr Ahern, who met Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, in Dublin yesterday.

the leading dissident MP was attacked by his own constituency chairman, William Ross, the East Londonderry MP and the UUP's chief whip, was "out of touch" and had "no support", claimed Tom Fleming, the chairman. Mr Ross said it was the party that had violated party policy by accepting the agreement.

80% of Irish police go sick in pay dispute

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

FOUR out of five Irish police officers rang in sick yesterday as part of a protest to demand better wages.

More than 5,000 police joined the 24-hour "blue flu" campaign, leaving stations around the country in the care of sergeants and trainee officers. Stations in rural areas reported 100 per cent walk-outs, compared with about 90 per cent in Dublin and Cork. Trainees were transported in 40 coaches from the police headquarters in Dublin to stations around the country. They were quickly sent onto the streets to instil confidence into the public, some of whom were worried about property and personal safety. The Army was on stand-by to protect cash deliveries to and from banks.

Public reaction to the protest was mixed. Many supported the officers' campaign for better pay and accepted that, as Gardaí are banned from striking, the sick day was the only form of protest available. Others felt that they were acting immorally. "It's rather sick to have the guardians of the law lying en masse," said one shopkeeper.

The protest started at 6am yesterday as people prepared for the Bank Holiday weekend. The Garda Representative Association, which speaks for 8,500 officers of Garda rank, said a second day of protest was likely unless the Government agreed to its pay demands.

John O'Donoghue, the Justice Minister, said that he would not breach the pay guidelines set out in the public agreement drawn up between unions, employers and the Government. The successive agreements have been responsible for much of Ireland's economic success.



Henry McLeish, a Scottish Office minister, and Julie Fulton married yesterday at a chapel in St Andrews

Wedding bells on Labour's big day

By Shirley English

HENRY McLEISH, a Scottish Office minister, celebrated Labour's first year in office yesterday by marrying Julie Fulton.

McLeish, 49, MP for Fife Central, and his bride were honeymooning in Rome. They met through Mrs McLeish's work as a social worker at Fife council. Both already had two children. Mr McLeish's first wife, Margaret, died of cancer in 1995. Julie, 44, had moved to St Andrews when her marriage broke down nine years ago.

MP's children, who are in their twenties: "They know I make their dad happy. But I would never try to replace their mother. No one could. We like each other a lot. Henry does not try to be father to my children but they like him and are happy about our wedding." Her daughter Carly, 13, was a bridesmaid. Mr McLeish is to resign as an MP to contest a seat in the Scottish parliament.

M16 man jailed for book is released

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A FORMER M16 officer who has been released on licence after serving less than five months of a 12-month prison sentence for breaching the Official Secrets Act, faces further legal action if he tries to make a second attempt at writing his memoirs, government officials said last night.

Richard Tomlinson, 34, who worked for M16 for four years and served as a field intelligence officer in Moscow and Bosnia, has been freed from Belmarsh prison in South London. He was sentenced at an Old Bailey trial in December after admitting that he had tried to sell his story to an Australian publisher in Sydney.

Small turnout could scratch TV's Big Ticket

By A Correspondent

THE controversial National Lottery Big Ticket TV gameshow is facing a new problem. It emerged yesterday - there are not enough people to play it. So far, only 68 winners have come forward to take part. It means Camelot has enough contestants for only three more programmes in the series, which still has 11 weeks to run.

Organisers had expected enough scratchcard winners to come forward to provide up to 40 contestants on each show. But poor sales and apparently camera-shy winners mean they are struggling to find eight contestants for each programme. The problem is the latest to hit the show, which has failed to deliver a hoped-for expected 20 per cent surge in scratchcard sales. The BBC came under fire for screening what some MPs condemned as a blatant advert for Camelot and is understood to be planning to drop the show at the end of its 16-week run.

Marr quits as Indie editor for second time

By Raymond Snoddy

ANDREW MARR, editor-in-chief of The Independent, resigned from the paper yesterday for the second time in four months. Mr Marr decided to leave after it was confirmed that Simon Keeler, current editor of Night and Day, the Mail on Sunday magazine is the new editor of The Independent.

"It could be that people are bashful about appearing on television or they might not be sure how the gameshow works. They might not realise that they can nominate someone else to appear on their behalf. Everyone who takes part gets £1,000 and they could end up winning £100,000," she said. "You don't go into a project like this without making contingency plans. It does depend on people coming forward. But we're working several weeks in advance and we're doing everything we can to encourage people to come forward."

Minister fraud claim 'groundless'

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

LABOUR officials said yesterday that allegations of election fraud against Helen Liddell, the Treasury Minister, were "groundless". A senior Labour figure said the complaint had been made by a disgruntled former party worker in Mrs Liddell's constituency, Airdrie and Shotts. He is believed to have claimed that Mrs Liddell and her agent, Karen Turnbull, failed to declare a £400 donation towards her election

penses from the shopworkers' union, Usdaw. The complaint was made to police in Strathclyde 48 hours before the expiry of the one-year time limit for instigating investigations into election expenses. A police spokeswoman said: "Inquiries are at an early stage and we are not in a position to confirm any criminality."

There is no prospect of disciplinary action against Mrs Liddell by the Labour Party. However, the timing is unfortunate for Mrs Liddell, who has been tipped for a Cabinet post in the next reshuffle. It also creates further embarrassment for Tony Blair, coming just a week after the Labour MP for Newark, Fiona Jones, was charged with election fraud.

A Labour source said: "This is somebody with a grievance. If he is that worried, why did he wait this long?" He added that Mrs Liddell was understood to be "totally relaxed" about the matter. Another official said: "The party is in no doubt that the allegations are groundless."



Liddell: no prospect of disciplinary action

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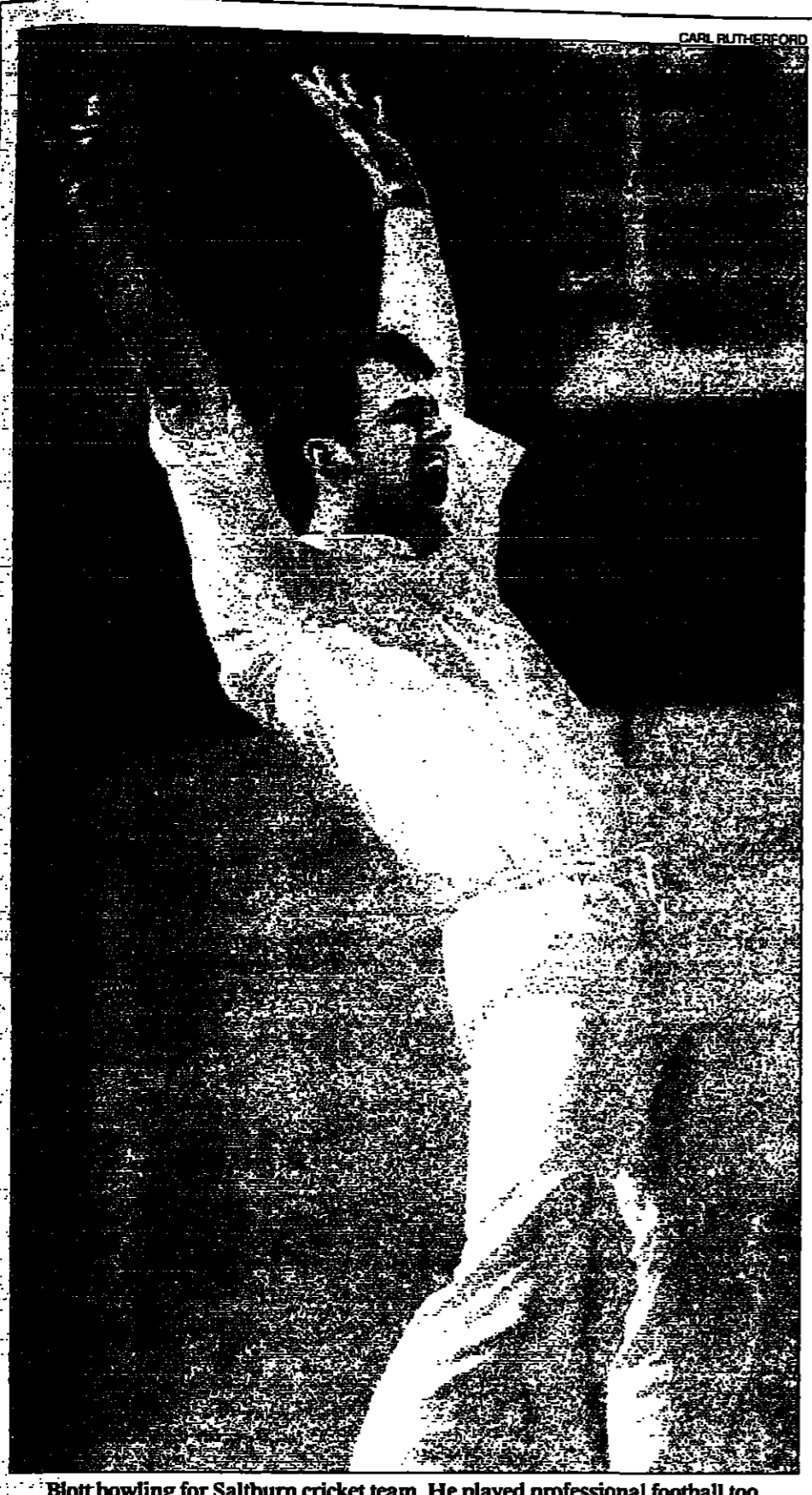
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Ex-footballer accused of assault on...

Mausoleum...



Rape PC boasted: I look good and that's no crime

Victims were reassured by his uniform and beguiled by a smooth line in chat, reports Paul Wilkinson

JOHN BLOTT claimed that he had slept with more than 300 women during his time on the beat on Teesside. The tall, darkly handsome policeman, a former professional footballer, believed that he looked like Richard Gere and could charm any woman he wanted into bed. He spent much of his time working towards that end. Even on duty he was on the lookout for potential conquests, hoping that the combination of his looks, a smart uniform and his Armani aftershave would impress women. He was so convinced of his abilities that shortly before his trial, he boasted: "The allegations aren't true because I can get plenty of women without forcing myself on them. Women are attracted to me because I'm fit and I look good and that's not a crime."

Yesterday Mr Justice Hooper warned him to expect a substantial jail term after he was convicted of raping two women and indecently assaulting a third. The jury at Leeds Crown Court was told his victims had been reassured they would be safe because he was a policeman. Aidan Marron, QC, for the prosecution, said: "But he was working to a hidden agenda. He was practising something of a system, inviting the victims out on a date. Once back at the house, the sexual overtures began, devoid of foreplay."

"When there was resistance, violence crept in, despite their protestations, followed by indifference. They were driven home either in silence or as if nothing was untoward."

"Significantly, there was no attempt to make further contact. Mr Blott says the inci-

dents were fully consensual and enjoyable by both parties, yet not one of them succumbed to the temptation to make further contact with him."

Each victim believed it was an isolated incident and that, as he was a police officer, she would not be believed. It was only last year that an investigation began when one of the women confided in a colleague, who informed a friend who was a special constable. When reports appeared in local papers about the inquiry, more women came forward to build up a dossier on a man who regarded them as objects for his pleasure.

The first rape in August 1993 involved a 16-year-old college student riding with a friend near Middlesbrough. Blott had chatted to them and told the court he was aware the girl was interested in him. Shortly afterwards, she let him use her horse to chase a stolen car. Later he took her name and address as a potential witness and asked her for a date. "She was young, flattered, and accepted," Mr Marron said. On the date he

ward, detectives followed up entries in Blott's diaries going back ten years. Blott told police that all the women had initiated sex with him or agreed to it. He claimed that one had been told by friends that she was lucky to be going out with him and another said she wanted sex to get even with her boyfriend who was causing her "difficulties".

Blott said he did not bother with long-term relationships, preferring the excitement of chatting a girl up for a one-night stand. "It's more fun

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Blott said he did not bother with long-term relationships, preferring the excitement of chatting a girl up for a one-night stand. "It's more fun

year-old WPC in 1989 was the subject of an internal investigation but no action was taken.

A 22-year-old policewoman who partnered Blott on the beat said that he would "undress me with his eyes" and filled his conversation with smutty comments. She said: "He was good looking but he made my skin creep."

Born in the depressed working class district of South Bank on Teesside, Blott showed a talent as a schoolboy sportsman, keeping goal for the county schools and youth soccer teams and winning selection for the national schoolboy squad. In 1982, aged 17, he signed professional forms for Manchester City but failed to make the first team and transferred to Carlisle United in November 1984.

A broken wrist that went undiagnosed for a year led to fitness problems and he underwent a series of operations. He played only twice for Carlisle before his contract was cancelled. He played briefly for Mansfield Town and Newport County but finally realised his sporting career was over.

After a brief spell as a PE instructor at a Teesside hospital he joined the police force in his home town. In his final examinations at training college he topped the class with 93 per cent.

The jury found Blott not guilty of two assaults and he was cleared at the judge's direction of a third. Simon Caterill, his solicitor, said after the verdict: "Nature and fate have conspired to give this man everything — good looks, charm, athletic ability and a successful career — and now that is all over. He doesn't believe he has done anything wrong. He will take his denials to his grave."



Blott in uniform...

Good looks, athletic ability and a successful career. And now that is all over ?



...and out "I look good"

Blott bowling for Saltburn cricket team. He played professional football too

Ex-footballer is accused of sex assault on boy

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE former footballer Justin Fashanu is wanted for an alleged sexual assault on a boy aged 17. US police confirmed last night.

Mr Fashanu, 35, was charged with the offence but police found that he was missing, along with his personal effects, when they went to search his flat in Ellicott, Maryland.

Sergeant Morris Carroll, of the Howard County police, said the alleged victim was one of six youths who spent an evening drinking beer at the flat on March 25. The boy claimed that he went to bed on the sofa around midnight but woke in Mr Fashanu's bed eight hours later.

"He grabbed his clothes and left the apartment and contacted the police after telling his parents what had happened," Sergeant Carroll said.

Mr Fashanu voluntarily reported for questioning and denied the charges, for which he could face 20 years in jail. Police said that if he left the country, extradition proceedings would be taken.

Mr Fashanu, brother of John Fashanu, who was a striker for Wimbledon and Aston Villa, said publicly that he was gay in 1990. He moved to Ellicott this year to be a coach with the newly formed Maryland Mania football



Fashanu: US police say he is missing

Earl says Althorp will never be a British Graceland

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

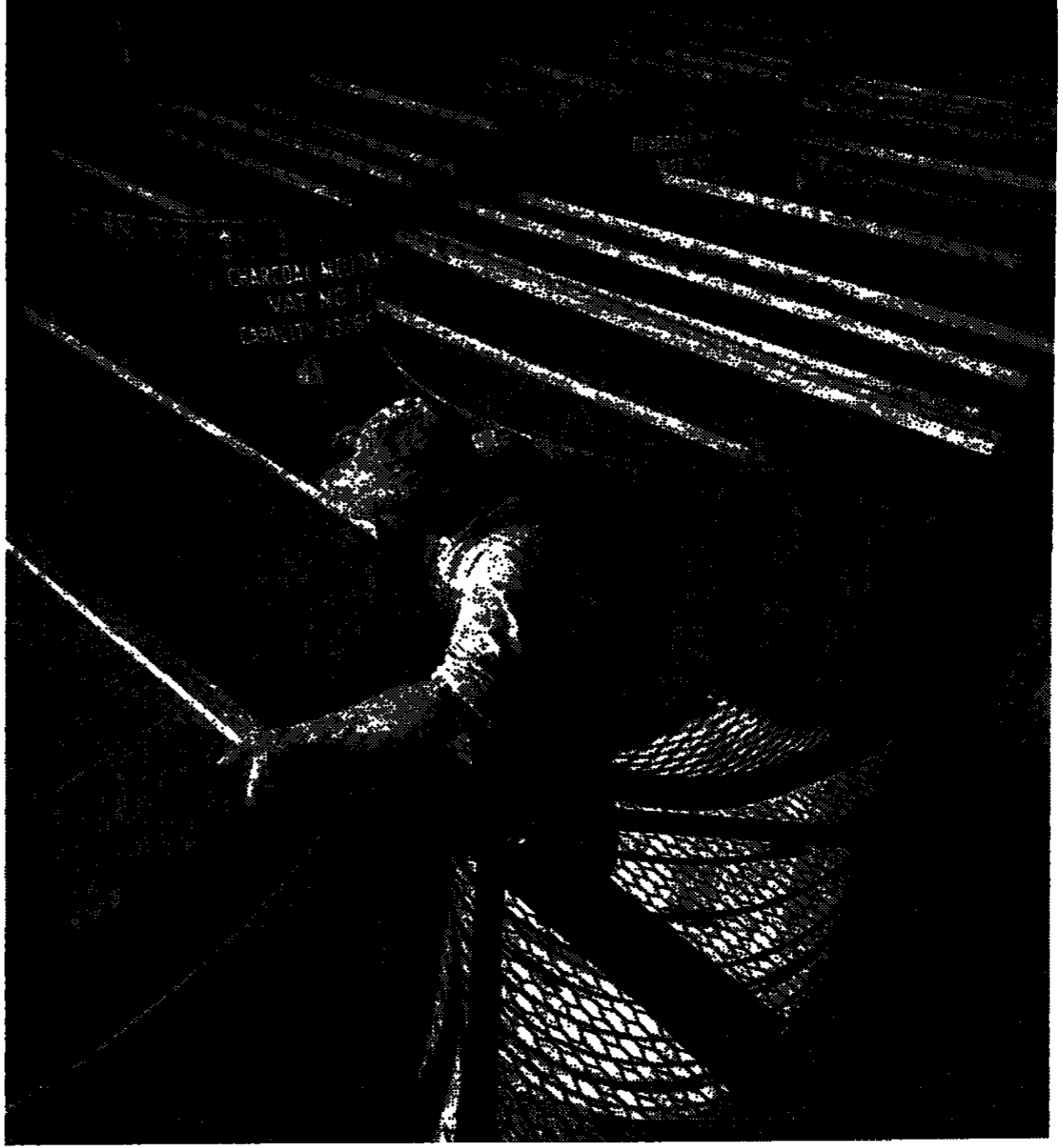
EARL SPENCER insisted yesterday that he would never allow his ancestral home to become "Britain's answer to Graceland" after he was accused of profiting from his sister's death.

His critics claim that he is turning Althorp into a tourist trap similar to Elvis Presley's home in Memphis. They also allege that he is using the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales to underwrite the refurbishment of the loss-making Althorp estate.

The earl said that, for the past three years, he had made a "modest profit" from the 10,000 visitors and renting out Althorp, and would lose that money now that all profits were to go to the memorial fund set up in his sister's memory.

"Nobody will believe him but he has been losing money since Diana's death. The house will not be open for any more commercial ventures. The bank loan of several millions was not to renovate the estate but to create a museum and a fitting setting for his sister's memory," an aide said yesterday.

The earl told guests at a lunch to raise funds for the Royal Women's Hospital in Brisbane: "I would like to assure you and the wider Australian public that we, her



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Mausoleum is a nice little urner

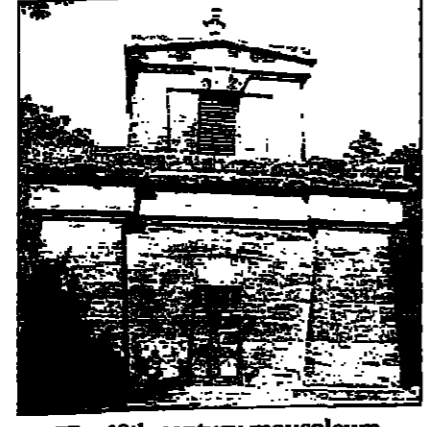
BY RACHEL KELLY AND ALAN HAMILTON

CITIZENS of Stoke-on-Trent are to be given the rare chance to lie with dukes. But they will have to be cremated first.

The city council in the heart of the Potteries is throwing open the former mausoleum of the Dukes of Sutherland to help to raise the £100,000 needed to restore the 18th-century building. For a ten-year lease of between £200 and £500, customers will get a niche in a wall for their ashes, a plaque, book of remembrance, and closed-circuit security cameras to protect their remains.

It is thought to be the first time that the common herd has been allowed to lie in an aristocratic mausoleum. Fifty niches are being provided in a newly built columbarium, a wall of resting places of a style favoured on the Continent. The burial site houses six dukes and other members of the Sutherland family.

Karen Deaville, the city's cemeteries and crematorium manager, said yesterday: "The intention is to bring the building back into use. It is currently vandalised and abandoned, with a broken stained-glass window and a



The 18th-century mausoleum

broken bell. It would provide a burial place for those who live in nearby suburbs, who currently have no choice but to visit their loved ones in central Stoke-on-Trent. The fact that it was once the burial place of dukes could work both ways, but we expect that some people would be quite pleased to be buried alongside them."

The Sutherlands gave up burying their

dead in the mausoleum, in a Greek Revivalist style by the architect Charles Tatham, when their vast Italianate stately home at nearby Trentham was demolished at the turn of the century.

Mausoleums were all the rage in Victorian times, as great families abandoned burials in the family chapel in favour of more obvious monuments upon which their tenants and other lesser mortals could brood in reverence. There are an estimated 225 remaining in the country, a third of them in poor condition.

Christopher Woodward, of the London-based conservation charity The Mausolea and Monuments Trust, said: "Nothing is more fitting for this mausoleum; we believe it is wonderfully democratic."

The news was equally welcomed by the present Countess of Sutherland at her Scottish family seat at Dunrobin Castle, Sutherland. "We are very happy that the building will now be used and kept up. After my grandfather died, for years we thought we owned it. We are delighted to learn that we don't any more, and can stop paying out money for it."

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Riven by ancient quarrels, menaced by ancient enemies: 50 years on, the state of Israel

Special report by Bryan Appleyard. The Sunday Times Magazine, tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Record number of women take silk

TEN women — the highest number of female QCs to take silk at one time — were sworn in at a ceremony at the House of Lords yesterday.

Congratulating them and the 53 other new Queen's Counsel, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, spoke of what he looks for in a successful silk candidate: "The qualities I seek include legal, intellectual and advocacy ability; professional integrity and standing; maturity; and a high quality practice."

Noting the issues that played no part in the process, he said: "There is no mention of universities or chambers, sex or ethnic origin. Each one of you is here on your individual merits alone."

He added: "The consultation at the root of the silk exercise is entirely fair. It does not discriminate against those from particular backgrounds. Many women and members of the ethnic minorities have this year been able to win through and demonstrate that they are worthy of silk. The improvement has been slow, but seems to be well in place."



Julia Macur, Patricia Lynch, Elizabeth Blackburn, Linda Dobbs, Joan Butler, Jennifer Kershaw, Frances Patterson, Margaret De Haas, Wendy Joseph and Jane Crowley took silk yesterday

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Lawyers are urged to do more work for no pay

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice is backing a campaign to encourage solicitors to do more unpaid work for the "less affluent members of society".

Lord Bingham of Cornhill says that solicitors should see such work as a universal ethical obligation. It would also help their public image.

In a leaflet to all solicitors' firms in England and Wales this week, he says: "No practising lawyer is unaware of the centuries-old taunt that the only professional concern of lawyers is their professional remuneration. There can be no more effective riposte than a willingness to work, part of the time, for nothing."

The leaflet has been sent out by the Solicitors' Pro Bono Group, set up last September by eleven of the largest law firms in the country to boost pro bono work by the solicitors. The initiative coincides with the row this week over publication by the Lord Chancellor's Department of a league table purporting to be the top 40 barristers and solicitors' firms earning most from the legal aid fund.

The Bar denounced the figures as inaccurate and misleading, while the Law Society said that firms on the list should be proud of their inclusion because it reflected the volume of work they did and help that they gave. The Pro Bono Group now wants the rest of the profession to sign up to an organised

scheme and provide the funding needed to co-ordinate pro bono work throughout the country.

Peta Sweet, the group's director, said that firms that took part would "demonstrate a tangible commitment to the provision of pro bono services as a means of meeting unmet need". This would show the wider public that the profession did care about access to justice.

In the leaflet, Lord Bingham, the most senior judge in England and Wales, says that Britain is lagging behind countries such as the United States, and parts of the Commonwealth such as New South Wales, where unpaid work had come to be accepted as a professional obligation.

"There always have been, and always will be, those who lack the means to obtain the legal advice or help which they need and who cannot for whatever reason obtain public support," he says. "Solicitors up and down the country have always recognised that need by acting for nothing or for much reduced fees in deserving cases."

But, Lord Bingham says, much of the work has been done piecemeal and ad hoc. Solicitors have also been slow to publicise the work. Instead, solicitors should build their existing pro bono activity into a "more professional, better directed, better co-ordinated, more universal ethical obligation".

Inventor's patent claim causes stink

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A MALODOROUS dispute has broken out at the Patent Office over the competing claims of two inventors to have overcome the smell of sweaty feet.

Peter Chown, a former RAF engineer, unveiled his design last month and said it had been prompted by his wife's complaints about their grandsons' trainers.

His Easy Feet invention, featured in the BBC1 *Tomorrow's World* programme, involves a valve system which releases deodorant through microscopic holes into the shoes from a reservoir in the heel, activated by movement.

Mr Chown, 55, a professional inventor from King's Lynn, Norfolk, filed his patent application, entitled *An Article of Footwear*, at the Patent Office on November 12 1997.

The television exposure did not enthrall the physicist Kurt Sugden, however. His patent (GB 2291334), entitled *Aerated Footwear*, was granted on March 26 last year after being filed on October 21 1993. Dr Sugden's scheme utilises foot pressure to disperse deodorant as well as fresh air.



Two men are claiming smelly trainer success

Dr Sugden, who developed the system through his research and development consultancy, Thesis, in Penrith, Cumbria, said: "I am not saying he stole the idea, but he doesn't realise he could be infringing someone else's patent." His lawyers have fired off a warning letter.

The Patent Office confirmed Dr Sugden's patent had been granted and said Mr Chown's application was at an early stage.

Mr Chown said last night: "We want to try and see if it might be possible to merge our ideas."

THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 2 1998

Cricket board says sorry to sacked secretary

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Cricket Board has said it was sorry to sack its secretary, Peter Doolan, after 11 years in the job. The board said it was "pleased" to announce the departure of Doolan, who had been in the job since 1987. Doolan, 44, was sacked on Monday after a multi-year investigation into alleged financial irregularities. The board said it was "pleased" to announce the departure of Doolan, who had been in the job since 1987. Doolan, 44, was sacked on Monday after a multi-year investigation into alleged financial irregularities.

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'Two strikes' man gets life sentence for violent assault

Harriid received "substantial sum"
Cricket board says sorry to sacked secretary

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THERESA HARRIID, who won a sexual discrimination case against the England and Wales Cricket Board, has received an apology and "substantial sum", her solicitors said yesterday.

The former Lord's receptionist won an industrial tribunal in March claiming she had been sacked after being forced to terminate her pregnancy. A day after the case, Tim Lamb, chief executive of the ECB, accused Miss Harriid, 32, of making "hurtful allegations" which he claimed were untrue.

A joint statement last night, issued by Miss Harriid's solicitors, said Lord MacLaurin, the board chairman, had "expressed sincere regret for any distress which the recent industrial tribunal proceedings and subsequent press statements have caused Miss Harriid".

It continued: "The ECB will be paying a substantial sum to Theresa Harriid and the legal costs which she had to incur. Theresa Harriid is pleased that this matter has now been brought to a conclusion."

Miss Harriid, who has a 14-year-old son, upset the England cricket hierarchy when she brought her case. She was dismissed from her £14,000-a-year job last June and, at the hearing, claimed Mr Lamb, 44, was a sexist and a bully who had once described some women players as "dykes".

Miss Harriid, from Blackheath, southeast London, said she was given £400 to pay for an abortion because bosses feared a baby would wreck the career of its father, Nick Marriner, head of youth cricket.

A FORMER armed robber was jailed for life yesterday under the "two strikes and out" law for criminals convicted of a repeat violent or serious sexual offence.

Edward Kelly, 39, was given an automatic life term for a violent attack on a man 17 years after he was jailed for a series of armed robberies. Kelly, from Kentish Town, North London, is the second person to be given an automatic life sentence since the Crime (Sentences) Act became law last year.

Judge Fabian Evans said Kelly should serve a minimum of four years for "retribution and deterrence" for what he called a vicious, unprovoked and prolonged attack on a man at a North London railway station.

At the end of the four years it will be for the Parole Board to decide whether he remains a risk to the public and should be kept in jail until he is considered safe for release.

In February James Hall, 24, became the first person to be given an automatic life sentence under the Act. He was convicted of stabbing a fellow resident at a hostel in Lincoln. The judge said he should serve a minimum of six years before being eligible for parole.

Kelly was jailed at Middlesex Crown Court yesterday one month after being found guilty of causing grievous

Former armed robber is jailed 17 years after his previous conviction, writes Richard Ford

bodily harm with intent on a man who intervened during a row between youths and a girl. He attacked Alex Humphreys, 25, as he stood on a platform at Caledonian Rd and Barnsbury station last October.

Kelly crossed the railway tracks and punched Mr Humphreys, a warehouse employee, to the ground. He kicked him in the head causing a broken cheekbone and a temporary loss of vision. At one stage Kelly sat aside Mr Humphreys and punched him on the head.

Judge Evans said that although Kelly's original conviction for armed robbery had been when he was 19, there were no "exceptional circumstances" in the latest case that would allow him to pass a sentence of less than life. "In the circumstances the law requires me to pass a life sentence in accordance with the Act," he said. The judge

said Kelly would be eligible for parole after serving four years. In 1979 Kelly was jailed by an Old Bailey judge for 14 years for a series of armed robberies on banks in North London.

During one of the raids Kelly, wearing a rubber mask and carrying a sawn-off shotgun, shot a customer in the leg before he and an accomplice made off empty handed. Their raids netted £33,000.

Jim Sturman, for the defence, tried to persuade Judge Evans to pass a determinate sentence, saying the attack bore no similarities to the previous conviction. He said Kelly was not a dangerous man and there was no need for the public to be protected from him.

Penal reformers criticised the Act that forced the judge to impose a life sentence. Paul Cavadino, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said: "No one would dispute that Mr Kelly's offence deserved a stiff sentence but requiring courts to pass life sentences on repeat offenders regardless of the individual circumstances is both unjust and absurd."

"Judges can already pass life sentences for serious violent crimes when the gravity of the offence or the dangerousness of the offender justify this."



Penelope China, a first-year student, is escorted home yesterday morning

No leap year for May Day students

BY A CORRESPONDENT

MAY DAY celebrations in Oxford passed off quietly yesterday morning after Magdalen Bridge was closed for safety reasons.

Thousands of revellers congregated at either end of the bridge to hear choristers singing madrigals from the top of Magdalen's Great Tower, but there were not the usual riotous scenes of drunken students leaping from the bridge into the Cherwell.

Police and the student union safety committee had decided to close the bridge because of the recent heavy rainfalls. The water was flowing ten times faster than last year and there were fears that anyone leaping into the river would not resurface.

After the singing had finished, the majority of the crowd, many in ballgowns and dinner jackets, wandered quietly home. David Tudor-Morgan, an engineering student at Oxford Brookes University, said: "They are spoiling our fun. This event has a 200-year tradition and we should be allowed to jump if we want. We should be able to take the risk. It is our choice."

Emily Waller, also from Oxford Brookes, added: "This is the one day of the year when we can all get together and have some fun. They are ruining it."

When the spiritual turn to the spirit

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A VICAR is attempting to boost falling congregations by installing a bar in the back of his church.

The Rev Robert Johnson, Rector of Burslem in Staffordshire, has been awarded a licence for two days for his church during the Burslem Arts Festival this weekend.

But if the bar packs in the crowds during a jazz concert and old-time musical at the church, he may consider asking local magistrates to make it a more regular fixture. Ironically, Mr Johnson's church is named after one of the most renowned teetotalers of all time, St John the Baptist. But Mr Johnson insisted that there was no conflict of ideals.

"It is so people can feel more comfortable with the idea of coming into a church building," he said.

The bar will be run by a local landlord. Mr Johnson said: "We are inviting people

in to have a drink — the bar will be at the back of the church. Many look at the church with some sort of awe or mystique.

"It's a change from the spiritual to the spirit. We want to do something that interests people in the community who have a problem with going into a church.

"There are bars in church halls all the time, but no one can remember it happening in a church before. The bar is well away from the worship area and will be closed during services. Some people have images of lager louts coming in and lying all over the pews with cans everywhere, and others are simply bemused."

Although some churches meet in converted pubs, and some redundant churches have been converted into wine bars, it is considered unprecedented for a bar to be licensed inside an active church.

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Open season on seals threatens tourist trade

THE lifting this week of a long-standing ban on the shooting of common seals around Shetland has raised fears of a slaughter that could repel tourists, damaging what is an increasingly important industry for the islands.

Since the ban was imposed in 1973 salmon farmers have struggled in secret to protect their stock from the seals that break into their cages to feed. Shooting the seals has been a furive business, carried out at isolated spots on the 13 sparsely populated islands.

One salmon farmer who admitted ignoring the ban said: "Seals are a menace. Tourists might see them as cuddly, but if I see one at my fish I'll shoot it."

Now that the killing is no longer illegal there is growing concern that huge numbers of seals will be shot. John Utley, area manager for Scottish Natural Heritage in Lerwick, said: "In Orkney seals have been killed in cold blood and we wouldn't want to see that happening in Shetland."

The prospect of seal carcasses being found on the white

Gillian Harris reports on fears raised in the Shetland Islands by the lifting of a shooting ban

sands is alarming for the those who make their living from tourism. The abundance of wildlife is being used to attract tourists to Shetland and many come especially to see the seal pups.

Maurice Mullay, executive director of the Shetland Tourist Board, doubts that thousands will be killed, as predicted by the Seal Preservation Society. But he said the seals were an important attraction and any threat was of concern, adding that the numbers shot would be monitored.

For their part, the salmon farmers are not sentimental. Robert Johnson, who manages Millburn Farm near Vidlin, said that "rogue seals" were the problem. "They are persistent predators. I can recognise them from the red paint which has rubbed off on their faces from the nets. They

come back again and again. Nothing can frighten them."

His farm has 685,000 fish in cages. The seals lunge at the nets, snatching chunks of salmon. Machines that transmit a high-frequency screech, and even inflatable killer whales, are used as deterrents, but with varied effect.

Mr Johnson said that the seals were killed only as a last resort. "Everybody who works in the industry has at one time or another shot a seal. If you have a predatory animal you have to get rid of it."

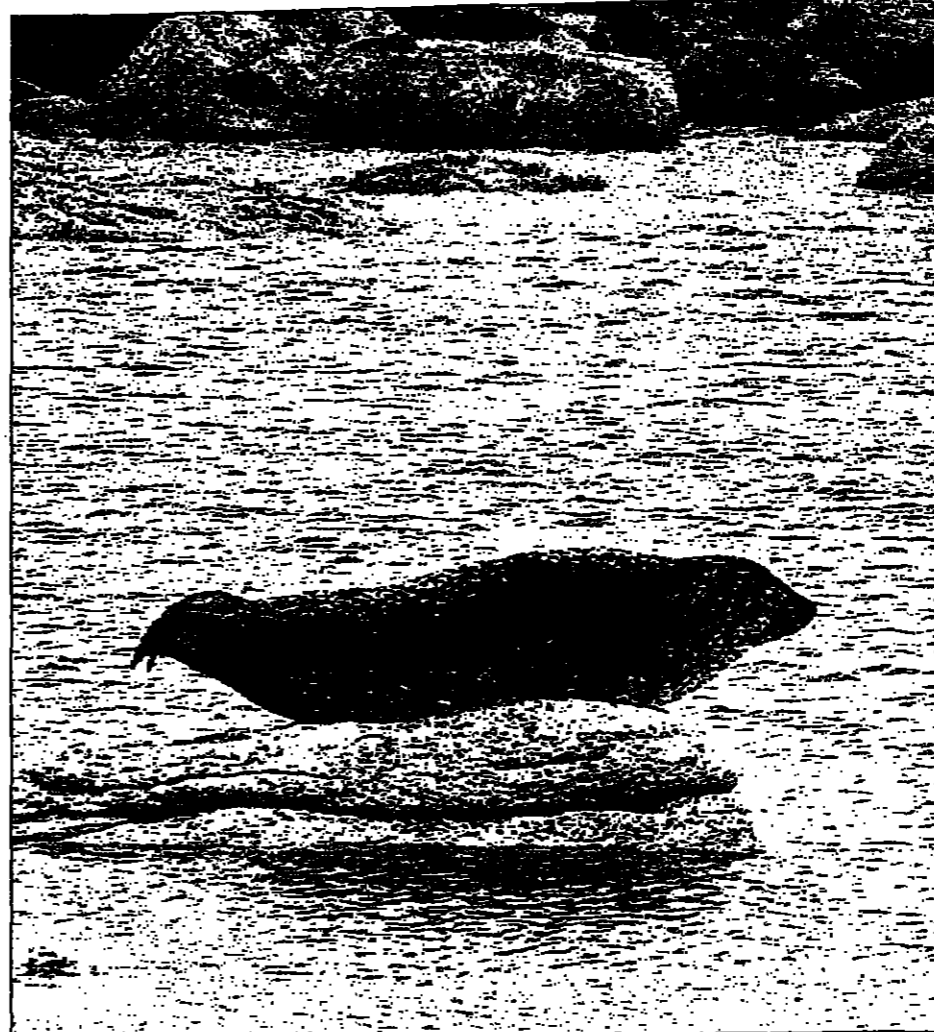
During the ban many salmon farmers were reluctant to break the law. The common seal population, a fifth of which is in Shetland, rose from 1,750 to what the Government described as a sustainable minimum of 6,000.

During the past 25 years public opinion has come out

strongly against killing seals. The environmental lobby, which did not exist in the 1960s when seals were last hunted openly in Shetland, has forced farmers to be secretive.

John Goodlad, secretary of the Shetland Fishermen's Association, said: "Seals, for some reason, especially pups, stir people's emotions. But we can't have the economy of Shetland and how we live and work dictated to us by people who live in towns and have no idea what they are talking about. There will always be instances when seals need to be shot. It's a fact of life."

Tests carried out to determine what killed up to 1,000 adult sea lions and 1,400 pups this year in the Auckland Islands, 200 miles south of New Zealand, have proved inconclusive. The Conservation Department in Wellington said that blood and tissue from the carcasses had been examined for an infectious agent or toxic residue without a clear result. The US Agriculture Department was carrying out final tests for viruses.



A common seal off Lerwick: numbers are now at a sustainable minimum of 6,000

NEWS IN BRIEF

11 charged over soccer violence

Eleven people have been charged with public order offences after police arrested a number of suspected football hooligans in Kent, London and Surrey. Three of the 11 were also charged with throwing missiles on to a playing area. The arrests followed violence at the Second Division match between Gillingham and Fulham last month, during which one fan, died. Eurostar tickets to France during the World Cup were also seized in the operation.

Death charges

Wendy Dodd, 40, of Leeds, was bailed by Pudsey magistrates, accused of manslaughter and wilful neglect after the drowning of Charlea Fox and Jasmine Neville, both 8, last July in the River Wharfe at Otley, West Yorkshire.

Children's deaths

Two children found dead at their home in Grimsby on Wednesday, had been smothered, police said. Their mother, Sally Bond, 33, had been strangled. The children's father, Alexander Lumsden, 46, was found dead in a car.

Quick on draw

A Premium Bond holder from Kent, who bought £13,000 worth of bonds less than four months ago, has made a rapid return on the investment by becoming the 50th millionaire selected by Ernie, the draw computer.

Love-struck nurse

A prison nurse was struck off the nurses' register after helping a killer with whom she was having an affair to abscond. Sylvana Osborne later married Andrew Osborne, who is now back in Littlehey Prison, Cambridgeshire.

Detective sacked

A detective constable convicted of drink-driving has been sacked from South Yorkshire Police. Joan Thorpe, 32, was banned from driving for 30 months this week after being convicted of driving while three times over the limit.

Street wise

Callie Comiskey, 17, of Farnworth, near Manchester, saw a *Coronation Street* episode about a baby dying of meningitis and recognised the symptoms in her eight-month-old daughter. Doctors were able to save her.

Amber riches

A 25 million-year-old lizard encased in amber, believed to be the largest complete creature to be found preserved in resin, is expected to fetch up to £150,000 when it goes for auction at Phillips, New York, on May 17.

Happy day when dog was man's best man

By A CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Simon Rickman took his wedding vows, his best man was Muttley, his border collie.

Mr Rickman, a graphic designer from Richmond, Surrey, said yesterday: "It was a choice between my brother and my best friend. I chose Muttley so neither of them would get upset."

The dog wore matching bow and cuffs for the occasion at St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond, and when it came to exchanging rings with Deborah, his bride, Mr Rickman undipped them from seven-year-old Muttley's collar.

The Rev Julian Reindorp, the rector, said: "The dog meant a lot to them. He came to the wedding preparations and was always well behaved. He also sat remarkably still throughout the service."

"He has been very much part of Simon's life for some time and they all took the wedding very seriously," he added. "I have never done a wedding like this before but this is England and we do love our pets."

Mr Reindorp said the dog, which regularly attended services at the church, even "signed" the witness book with a paw print.

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The bappie: young, free and trendy

Gone are the days when parenthood meant poverty and social deprivation, reports Alexandra Freen

HE DINES at Quaglino's, wears Paul Smith, meets girls at the Fifth-Floor Restaurant at Harvey Nichols and flies to New York to feed the ducks in Central Park.

He is a bappie (Baby of Affluent Parents), indulged by his family and feted by the marketing men who are thrilled to flaunt their designer labels.

A true bappie dribbles his organic yoghurt on nothing less than a French Connection romper suit. Before putting his foot in his mouth, it must be shod in a Timberland boot.

His hero is Sulaiman Khan, the ultimate bappie son of Jemima Goldsmith and Imran Khan. Sulaiman was invited to pose on the cover of *Tatler* when he was only a few weeks old. Of course, he wore BabyGap.

Bappies are the children of affluent professionals in their late twenties or thirties who have a stylish wardrobe, love to travel and are determined not to compromise their comfortable lifestyle just because they are parents. Their spending power is demonstrated by the mushrooming supply of upmarket baby products, from designer clothes to organic baby foods and all-terrain pushchairs.

Two glossy magazines have just been launched to serve this growing market. *Junior*, now in its second issue, is *Tatler* for tots. This season's "chic-est" fashion item for children, says an article in issue one, is an embroidered

bappie (bap-pi) n. *colloq.* (orig. U.S.). Also Bappie. [I. the initial letters of (Baby of Affluent) (Professional) Parents]. A jocular term for a member of a socioeconomic group comprising the children of middle-class and well-to-do parents, working in cities. Also attrib. 1998 *The Times* May 2 "A true bappie dribbles his organic yoghurt on nothing less than a French Connection romper suit."

kaftan from Paul Smith, price £55. There is also a review of child-friendly restaurants in London. Traditional haunts such as Harvester and Happy Eater are not recommended. Chris Taggart, Editor of *Junior*, previously worked on the style magazines *The Face* and *Arena*.

Rachel Shattack, Editor of *M*, described her magazine as "a kind of *Cosmo* for kids". She said: "The average age for women to have their first baby is now 28. Because they have a longer period of independence before their children arrive, they have higher expectations of lots of things, from how they travel to where they eat out." The first issue of *M*, which goes on sale Monday, includes articles on family therapy and complementary medicine.

Roy Perry, a director of the Chartered Institute of Marketing who specialises in children's goods, said: "No one has really tried to market to

this group before, but the potential is huge.

"It is not just rich people; this group also includes the aspiring rich. There is an element of snobbery; they want to have things that establish them as an 'it' family in other people's eyes."

Evidence of the bappie boom is emerging on the high street. Last month French Connection opened its first "Junior" store on King's Road, Chelsea. A shift dress costs about £25, boy's jeans are £24 and puffed jackets £80.

Lilli Anderson, a spokeswoman for the company, said: "These clothes are aimed at French Connection customers who want their children to look trendy and dress similarly to them. They would be a young couple with the type of father who wants the children to be fashionable but wear something interesting," she said.

Upmarket hotels, bars and restaurants are becoming increasingly tolerant of bappie customers, tailoring their menus and furniture to the needs of the diminutive new clientele. Sir Terence Conran's London restaurants all have high chairs. Quaglino's, in St James's, provides the à la carte menu at half price for five to 12 year olds.

The travel industry is also responding to a boom in bappie holidaymakers. Virgin Atlantic said that demand for long-haul seats for toddlers had grown from 6 to 10 per cent between 1993 and 1998. *Junior* demands led the company to revamp its children's inflight packs in January. The pint-sized traveller can now pose in a pair of wraparound sunglasses while chewing a guide to training shoes and tearing up a story book.

Grocers are welcoming bappies, too. At Planet Organic, in Westbourne Grove, children's food products are the fastest-growing product lines. "Our customers tend to be well-educated people who are aware of the dangers of pesticides. They do tend to be people with money," a spokeswoman said.

Haute cuisine for babies is appearing on the shelves of Sainsbury and Waitrose. The Original Fresh Babyfood Company has delicacies such as sweet potato and carrot with cinnamon or baked fish with fennel and potato. Even mainstream manufacturers are providing gourmet recipes such as turkey pot au feu.

The only thing that can't be bought by bappie families is time. Mr Perry gave warning that many tots will grow out of bappiehood well before their parents would wish, with dire results for street cred. "You can impose your own taste in clothes, food and toys on children when they are very small but by the time they reach three or four it becomes impossible.

"They just want things that other kids have and what they see on television and a lot of that may not be very upmarket," he said.

Leading article, page 21



Model family: David Green and Jane Campbell with daughter Ellie yesterday

Nappies and the Pill set women free

By Philip Delves Broughton

WOMEN have named disposable nappies, contraceptives and the mobile telephone as among the most valuable inventions of the late 20th century.

At the Female Millennium conference, organised by the International Women's Forum, prominent women from around the world were asked to contribute an item to an imaginary time capsule. Babygro's, flashy cars to make men envious and the Education Act, which raised the school leaving age to 16, were also included.

Hillary Clinton offered an inscribed copy of four of her international speeches on women's issues. Rabbi Julia Neuberger chose the babygro, as it "symbolised containing children and giving them their freedom".

Dame Stella Rimington, known to most people only from her time as the steel-rimmed Spook-in-Chief, chose disposable nappies, arguing that they "revolutionised the amount of effort involved in raising children". She explained that she employed reusable nappies for her elder daughter and disposables for her second, a striking difference that left her pondering whether, if men did more nappy duty, they would be so concerned about the

used-nappy mountain said to be threatening the environment.

Striking a blow for the mature woman was Sally Greengross, the Director-General of Age Concern England. She wanted to pop in the capsule a packet of HRT tablets and a week out of her diary.

Baroness Denton of Wakefield suggested the mobile phone and car for independence, security and one in the eye for men. Rosalind Miles, the writer and broadcaster, called contraceptives "the sine qua non of healthy, fulfilled womanhood", while Sheila Needham, the managing director of a design company, offered a wedding ring.



Essential reading: *M* and *Junior* are *Tatler* for tots

MIND THE GAP

Bappies like
Chicken korma babyfood
Paul Smith kaftans and BabyGap jeans
Aromatherapy and baby massage
Holidays at Club Med
Dinner at Quaglino's
Pure cotton and cashmere ATPs (all-terrain pushchairs)

Bappies hate
Packets of dried macaroni cheese
Clothes from Mothercare
Calpol and NHS waiting rooms
Butlin's
Outings to McDonald's restaurants
Anything synthetic
Collapsible buggies

She's all dressed up and knows just where to go

By Alexandra Freen

ELLIE CAMPBELL GREEN, aged 2½, is a regular at the Met Bar, an exclusive club on London's Old Park Lane, hangout of celebrities such as Kate Moss, Winona Ryder and Liam Neeson.

An archetypal bappie, Ellie goes there with her parents, Jane Campbell, 27, and David Green, 26, both models. She lives in Primrose Hill, northwest London, and dresses at French Connection, BabyGap and Agnes B. Her toys come from the upmarket children's store Daisy and Tom on the King's Road, London, and the Early Learning Centre.

She has recently returned from a weekend break at a five-star hotel in Chester and is planning a Christmas holiday in the Caribbean with her parents. Ms Campbell believes it is healthy for her daughter to share her lifestyle. "When I was pregnant, I thought I would never let the baby change my life. Wherever I go, I take Ellie with me if I can. I sometimes take her on castings with me. I tend not to



Ellie regularly hangs out at the Met Bar

her parents hired the Courtyard Café, a fashionable restaurant on the Portobello Road, and invited 40 guests as a treat.

Ms Campbell does not think Ellie is spoiled. "I don't buy her lots. I only buy her toys on her birthdays and at Christmas. I just want her to have nice stuff — I think a lot of parents do," she said.

At two weeks old, Jack Staines is scarcely aware of the delights of bappiehood that await him. His sister Chloé, two, has already dined at most of the trendy restaurants along Bellevue Road, overlooking Wandsworth Common, southwest London. In September the two Staines bappies are going on holiday to Barbados with their parents, Amelia and Simon, both graphic designers.

Like most parents of bappies, Ms Staines, 33, did not want children to affect her social life. "We tend to take Chloé along with us wherever we go. We don't want to put our lives on hold just because we have children. I think it is quite a healthy approach."

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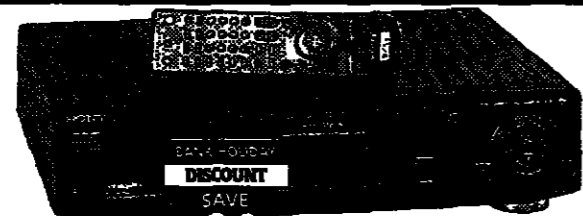
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British play host to stars at best hotel in world

THE best hotel in the world, according to a new survey, is a low-rise Los Angeles retreat that never advertises, claims to be impervious to paparazzi and is run almost exclusively by British managers.

The Hotel Bel-Air, which the Prince of Wales has likened to "a rich friend's house", is more beloved by this year's readers of *Gourmet* magazine than any other hotel on the planet, including the Peninsula in Hong Kong and the Oriental in Bangkok.

Its general manager attributes the accolade to "American friendliness and British attention to detail". Frank Bowling was born in Leeds and trained at the Savoy before spending 17 years in New York. His deputy manager, head chef, chief engineer and florist are also British. So are his front office manager and front desk manager.

Overhung by subtropical foliage, the Bel-Air is the legacy of an eccentric oil billionaire who bought the lush slopes of Stone Canyon in the 1920s and divided them into large ranches "to keep out the Hollywood riff-raff", as Mr Bowling puts it. The riff-raff may still be daunted by room rates of up to \$2,500



Giles Whittell reports on an exclusive retreat that offers privacy for celebrities

(£1,560) a night for the presidential suite, but the elite check in in droves. Dodi Fayed was a guest shortly before he died; Tom Cruise and his wife, Nicole Kidman, are liable to take over a third of the hotel on Oscar weekends; and King Hussein of Jordan shares the Prince of Wales's fondness for a courtyard overlooked by strangely stunted trees in Leonard ("Mr Spock") Nimoy's neighbouring garden. Baroness Thatcher prefers a suite at the other end.

This week, as Mr Bowling savoured his victory over dozens of grander hotels, Julie Andrews, Julia Roberts and Robin Williams were among his guests. Nancy Reagan came for lunch as usual ("the Reagans live just up the street") and Arnold Schwarzenegger dined on the terrace, which boasts a heated floor.

In a town that homes in on celebrities, the Bel-Air claims to offer them a degree of privacy they cannot find elsewhere. It is certainly a hard target for photographers. Giant *Ficus* trees make the main mission-style building invisible from its own car park, where attendants guard the footbridge that leads to the reception in a modest living room.

"We don't get paparazzi here," said Mr Bowling, whose first job was at the Buck Inn on the North York Moors. "They know they won't get past the door."

Anecdotal evidence suggests he may be wrong. One photographer recalled smuggling a camera into the dining room to take pictures of Mike Tyson. But reporters get little help at the front desk. The standard response to questions about guests is "Who?". Mr Bowling explained, adding that the bewilderment is sometimes genuine since most famous visitors use codenames.

The Bel-Air — owned by Prince Jefri of Brunel, the Sultan's brother — has no views, beach, tennis courts or golf course. It recently joined the global fitness craze by installing exercise machines in a cottage where Marilyn Monroe once lived, but its chief selling point is personal ser-

vice elevated to a form of religion. With up to three staff per guest, unusual requests raise few eyebrows. For one elderly actress, eight pages of special typewritten instructions are kept on file with the final note: "Could change at any time."

The hotel's only permanent residents are a pair of Polish swans. Like many guests, they have a special diet and strangely familiar names — Hermes and Aphrodite.



The hotel's quiet courtyard, whose admirers include the Prince of Wales and King Hussein of Jordan. The Reagans live "just up the street"



Bowling: first job was in North Yorkshire

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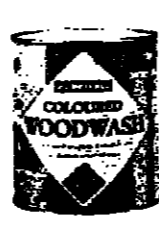
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World Cup's ticket artistry fools forgers

Ben Macintyre reports on a clever cocktail of design and technology that will control entry to the contest

IT MAY be difficult to obtain a genuine ticket for the World Cup, but illegally manufacturing your own is impossible, according to the tournament organisers, who have unveiled what they say is one of the most forgery-resistant pieces of paper ever made.

Scientists at the specialist paper company, Arjo Wiggins, have spent two years designing the tickets, and the result is described as a "brilliant cocktail" of high technology and high art, with more anti-counterfeit features than any banknote.

Each of the 2.5 million tickets is unique, and they are designed in such a way that the purchaser should be able

to tell at a glance whether he has been presented with a fake, the French Organising Committee for the World Cup (CFO) said.

"The buyer will be the first judge of the ticket's authenticity, and should be able to detect any attempted counterfeiting," Michel Platini and Bernard Sastre, joint CFO presidents, said this week.

The most obvious anti-forgery device is a watermark, like those used on currency, representing Footix, the tournament's cockerel mascot. The watermark, visible on both sides, cannot be reproduced by printing or photocopying.

A second line of defence is an iridescent strip merged into

the paper itself, again representing the ubiquitous Footix, which changes colour depending on the angle of vision. "The advantages of this iridescent system are that it allows immediate visual checking at the gates and makes the document impossible to photocopy," the makers said.

Then there is a hologram, or three-dimensional image known as a Gyrogram, in a box on the right-hand side of the ticket, representing the World Cup trophy within a stylised map of France. The hologram is attached to the ticket with a special adhesive using what the designers called "a sophisticated industrial tool".

The ticket is made from non-fluorescent currency paper that does not glow under ultra-violet light and can be easily checked by passing it under a special lamp, similar to those used to check banknotes. About 16 tonnes of paper will be needed to make the World Cup tickets.

Each ticket will be personalised, with the name of the purchaser printed on it, whether an individual or org-

anisation. The CFO has said that on-the-spot identity checks may be carried out, although there will not be an attempt to check the identity of every ticket-holder, since this would cause bottlenecks and pose a security risk.

The tickets will also show the match number, the date, the stand, row, seat, price and a number for each purchaser. A system of coloured boxes on the ticket will direct spectators

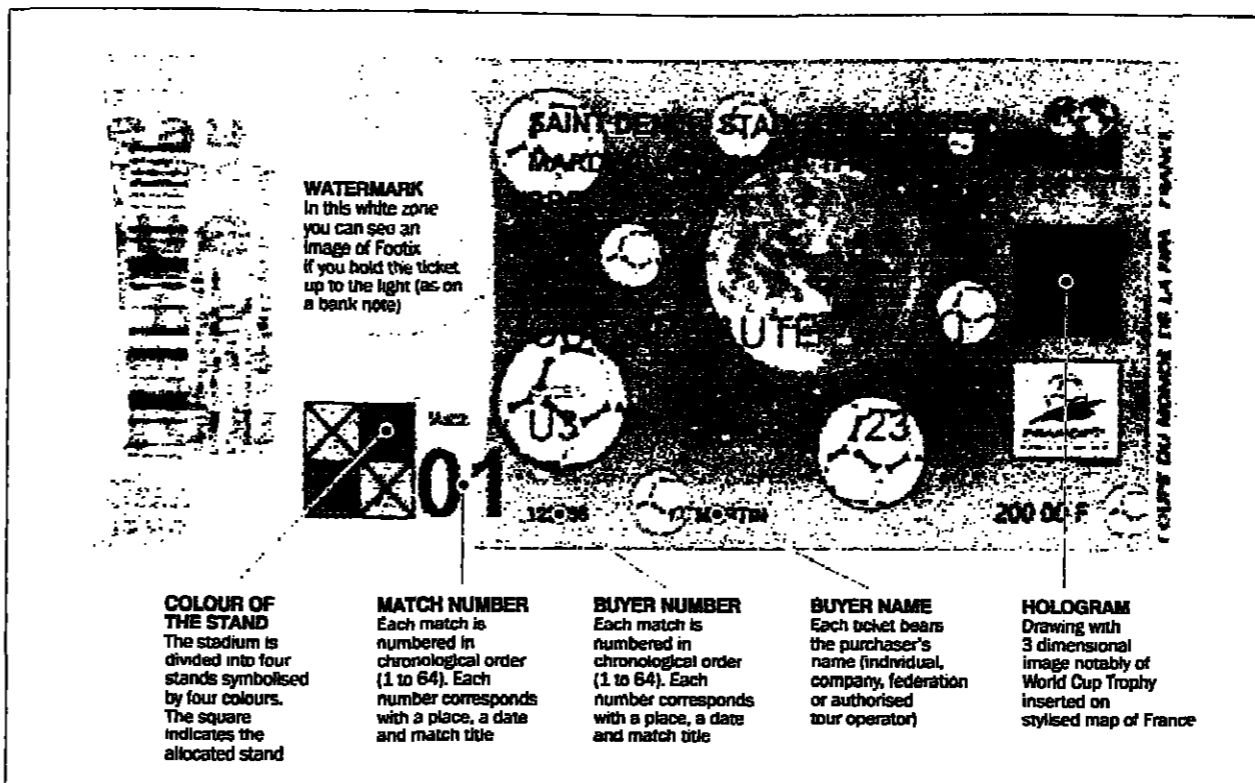
to the sections of each stadium. On the reverse of the ticket are pictograms of objects banned inside the stadiums, including weapons, drugs and alcohol, and the legal and security rules applying within the grounds. The tickets will be sent out in unidentifiable packages via a secure delivery system in mid-May, just two weeks before the start of the tournament.

In typical French style, the

makers of the ticket declared it to be artistic as well as an efficient creation, despite the multiple security devices. "The World Cup ticket cannot be thought of simply as a printed bit of paper. It is the witness to a happening... with its dominant tints of yellow and blue, its images of footballs against a starry sky, this ticket is a symbol of universal values," the CFO said. "This precious 'Open Sesame!' rep-

resents the confluence of four themes: security, beauty, legibility and quality."

The picture above is the closest most of us will ever get to a World Cup ticket. But any potential forger, when faced with the artistic, technological and practical hurdles of creating a fake (not to mention the inconvenience of getting caught) should take the easier option of watching the World Cup on television.



FRANCE 98
The World Cup ticket cannot be thought of simply as a printed bit of paper. It is the witness to a happening... with its tints of yellow and blue, its images of footballs against a starry sky, this ticket is a symbol of universal values.
The French Organising Committee



Michel Platini and a giant copy of one of the tickets

How to pacify that maniac on the sofa

Lynne Truss tells grass widows how to stay sane this summer

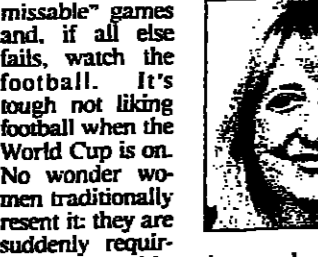
RELATE this week issued World Cup guidelines for the partners of football addicts. Rightly foreseeing that many men will spend a full month this summer (June 10 to July 12) transfixed by television in a darkened room while their peevish partners, increasingly exasperated, lob tins of catfood at their heads to gain attention. Relate suggests sorting a few things out in advance of the tournament.

Don't stand in front of the television, they advise the peeved. Don't start arguments in the middle of matches. Instead, lower your expectations, don't compete, try to have discussions in advance about the "un-missable" games and, if all else fails, watch the football. It's tough not liking football when the World Cup is on. No wonder women traditionally resent it: they are suddenly required to live with a bug-eyed stranger who occupies the sofa day and night, chews the cushions and cares whether Chile beats Austria or the other way around.

Obviously, some football-supporting males are provenly rabid already. At England's World Cup qualifying match against Italy in Rome last October, for example, passion ran so high that a shaven-headed man in front of me had to clench his teeth around a rolled-up flannel and pace up and down, biting hard. Anyone cohabiting with such a man should take note of the telltale froth on his three-lions shirt and leave at once for a new life in Canada.

But the difficulty that Relate rightly anticipates is the shocking, sudden transformation of easygoing chap to fierce monomaniac — a transformation that leaves many partners feeling hurt, unloved, ignored and above all, hated.

Here is the key to it, I think. Whether you are a grass widow, a grass widower, or just a person who resists global razzmatazz on principle, breathe deeply now and ask yourself whether you really hate football itself. I know, I know. But couldn't you take just a little interest? Examine the links between denial and jealousy. Isn't any tournament



inherently exciting? Isn't it a privilege to watch an event unfold — moreover, an unscripted, live event involving the world's most popular sport played at its highest level?

If the proposed give-and-take is a bit one-sided here, that's just realistic. There is no point making guidelines for the football maniac to observe. Don't get carried away, don't be so selfish, keep a sense of perspective, put your head in a bucket of water, remember the party for your wedding anniversary is the same day as England v Tunisia, so you'll have to switch off at half-time.

No, it doesn't work. The compulsion to witness the World Cup may look like lazy indulgence but actually it's beyond selfishness. What outsiders don't understand is that watching the World Cup is not optional. A higher duty calls. So, back with tactics for avoiding marital breakdown during that stressful month of the *Coupe du monde* and the stranger on the sofa:

- 1. Try imagining football as a newfangled world religion with strict observances which, as an agnostic yourself, you nevertheless respect.
- 2. Imagine football has just been invented and has not, all your life, been the means of excluding you from conversations on Mondays and Thursdays. Notice that football is in fact rather good to watch, and is played by attractive men at their physical peak. At random, choose a team to support, preferably England or Scotland.
- 3. Er, what else? Imagine that the sofa is an unbroken horse that might rear up and kill someone if not firmly pressed by the full weight of your heroic partner.
- 4. Investigate ways of starting a new life in Canada.

And if none of this works, don't throw tins of catfood because you'll regret it later. Instead, be subtle. Pretend to drool over David Ginola on the BBC's *Match of the Day* coverage. Grateful Spurs fans aside, many men would love to dismiss the gorgeous Ginola as an ineffectual, twinkie-toed French girlie, but (ha! ha!) because he's so brilliant, they can't!

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Sceptics find no place to hide from the euro

THIS weekend, European finance ministers take the final steps towards the creation of economic and monetary union (EMU) and a single currency, the euro, in January 1999. Britain may not have opted to join EMU in wave one. But the euro will impinge on the lives of even the most Eurosceptic of Britons, whether at home or in Euroland, a territory that will stretch from Helsinki to Madrid. Boost your euro awareness with our guide.



Anne Ashworth
looks at the impact of the single currency on Britons

What is actually happening this weekend?
The summit has three items on its agenda: the final decision on which countries will participate in EMU in January 1999, the rates at which their currencies will be fixed against each other and the nominations to the European Central Bank (ECB) which will be in charge of the euro and interest rates.

What differences will I see when I take a holiday on the Continent?
When the euro is introduced on January 1, 1999, you will see prices displayed in both the local currency and euros in shops and restaurants in EMU member countries. Euro notes and coins will not be available until January 1, 2002, the date on which they become legal tender. So you will still be able to use pesetas, lire and francs until they are

finally withdrawn on July 1, 2002. Citibank explains that a "no compulsion, no prohibition" rule means that you have the right to pay in either local currency or euros.

If you are itching to show your commitment to the European ideal and make a euro purchase, you can use your credit or debit cards. The bill for purchases will be translated back into sterling, appearing on your statement in the same way as any other foreign currency transaction. Thomas Cook (owned by the German Westdeutsches Landesbank) will also offer euro travellers cheques from next year.

The euro should make it easier to compare prices throughout Europe. Prices should not rise as a result of its introduction, but there may still be a decimalisation effect. When the decimal currency was introduced to Britain, many prices were increased in the conversion from the old imperial system of shillings and pence to the decimal coinage.

Do not presume that the

euro will be accepted beyond the boundaries of Euroland. The euro is years away from achieving the international acceptability of the dollar, which does as nicely in Asia as in Arkansas.

Will I be able to take out a euro mortgage?
Abbey National is considering offering euro loans to the UK employees of international businesses who may be paid in euros. As some large companies, such as Siemens, the electronics giant, will invoice

BUT I'VE ONLY JUST GOT THE HAND OF DECIMALISATION!

ROBERT THOMPSON

How much will the euro be worth? What will the coins look like?
The theoretical value of the euro has been estimated at about 5/7p. The design on one side of the coin will be identical in all EMU countries. But EMU members can display

their national identity with their own design on the other side.

There will be a common design for both sides of the notes, inspired by the ages and styles of Europe and including bridges, gateways and windows.

Other borrowers may well be attracted by the lower rate of interest likely to be ruling in the rest of Europe. But a euro mortgage would be subject to exchange rate fluctuations, as the sterling euro exchange rate will not be fixed. A sudden drop in sterling would increase the size of their mortgage overnight.

Theoretically you could approach a bank in an EMU member state for a euro loan next year. However, Beatrice Price of the EMU team at Citibank explains that a home buyer would encounter problems. As the bank would not have ready access to your credit history, it might increase your interest rate to reflect the extra risk.

By October 1999, new tills will be installed at Marks & Spencer's British and continental stores which will be able to take foreign currencies, including the euro and the dollar.
Additional research Jacqui Spray



Wim Duisenberg, the Dutch economist set to head the European Central Bank

Emotion and irony mark 'historic' day

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

REACTION

A LONG line of television reporters snaked around the courtyard of the EU Council building in Brussels yesterday and hammered the same message to their viewers across Europe: "historique... historico... historisch..."

There was, however, a great difference in their emphasis of the buzzword for the grand summit to proclaim Europe's monetary marriage. For the Italians, Spanish and others of the sunshine belt, enthusiasm shone through emotional reports. Irony and a little sarcasm tinged the version from Dutch and Germans.

Nearly seven years after its conception at Maastricht, the birth of the euro is stirring diverse feeling among the peoples of the 11 states whose currencies are to be proclaimed obsolete today.

The southerners can scarcely believe their luck on winning entry for their shaky currencies to the elite club. The Italians are cheering the lira's demise and their nation's embrace by the "scri-

ous" economies of the north. Old feelings of inferiority in France are fuelling solid support for the euro. Memories of postwar devaluations of the franc and fear of a resurgent Germany have helped convince more than 60 per cent that scrapping the franc is right.

Also savouring their promotion are the Irish and the Finns, not least because it highlights their separation from, respectively, Britain and the former Soviet Union. Their Nordic neighbours, Denmark and Sweden, share none of this enthusiasm and have chosen to stay outside.

Half of Germans are hostile to dropping the mark, and in The Netherlands 70 per cent want a referendum.

The Belgians and Luxembourgers, who have had their own monetary union for decades, are wondering what all the fuss is about. Belgians, suffering from a collapsing central authority, even hope the euro will help to stop their country falling apart.

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Police caught in middle as Left defies neo-Nazis

FROM ROGER BOYES IN LEIPZIG

GERMANY

SWINGING truncheons and shooting powerful bursts from their water cannon, the German police yesterday beat back an attempt to launch a full-scale battle between left-wing demonstrators and a newly confident neo-Nazi movement.

Thousands of supporters of the National Party for Germany (NPD) gathered at a huge statue that marks the 1813 Battle of Leipzig, one of Napoleon's most difficult battles. Yesterday's battle of Leipzig was less bloody, but it too was fast-moving and even involved some cavalry — police units using nervous-looking mounts.

The neo-Nazis feel they are on a roll in eastern Germany. Less than a week ago one far-right party, the German People's Union, won 13 per cent of the vote in Saxony-Anhalt. Nearby Leipzig is NPD territory. Support for the movement is snowballing, according to Jürgen Schön, regional organiser for the NPD in the east. "Our symbolic aim is to make Leipzig the capital of the new movement," he said.

The strategic aim emerged in conversations with some of his more intelligent supporters. They are planning to create a right-wing extra-par-

liamentary opposition to Bonn if, as seems quite possible, the Social Democrats and Christian Democrats form a government together.

The NPD and other far-right parties want to soak up the country's protesters — those who oppose the euro and those who claim that foreigners are taking away their jobs. That ambition explains why the neo-Nazis were unusually disciplined yesterday. "Put that beer away!" snapped one orderly to a follower, who immediately complied.

The far right wants to broaden its support from the slightly crazed, ageing gang of Holocaust-deniers and net the young and politically uncommitted. The speakers yesterday were xenophobic and nasty but within the bounds of the Constitution; there were no swastikas on display. If anybody shouted "Heil Hitler", they were told to behave. Their self-discipline was, if anything, more sinister than their usual drunken bawling.

The left struck first, before dawn. The NPD rally had been declared legal by the courts — it is difficult to ban demonstrations during an election campaign — but the

left-wing counter-demonstration was not. The police, 6,000 to control perhaps 8,000 neo-Nazis and a similar number of opponents, were thus pushed into the uncomfortable position of defending neo-Nazis.

On the previous night, before the police set up their checkpoints, the leftists nailed a banner reading "Fascism Never Again!" on the Leipzig battle monument and later set police vans on fire and hurled stones and bottles at the police.

The police cordons held firm. There was, however, a dreadful cacophony. A neo-Nazi organiser shouted "the national resistance is on the march" and played martial music. On the left-wing side of the barricades, the megaphones were blaring "Nazis out!" and in the middle the police were using their speakers to warn demonstrators that those with masked faces would be liable for arrest.

The battle ended, as in the Napoleonic era, around campfires. The leftwingers — those who had not been drenched by water cannon — grilled sausages and counted casualties. The rightwingers boarded buses and returned to their home pubs to drink beer away from the admonishing gaze of the stewards.



A National Party for Germany supporter at the Leipzig May Day rally yesterday

Le Pen rallies his forces to defend the sacred franc

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE

THE National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, yesterday launched a scathing tirade against Eurocrats, the American media and, above all, the European single currency, as the extreme-right party held its traditional May Day Paris rally in honour of Joan of Arc.

Against a background of blaring triumphalist music and a banner reading "Long live the franc! Long live France! Long live the French!", M. Le Pen declared that globalisation and the euro would spell doom for France.

"International finance is destroying nations, and its prophets are CNN, *The Washington Post* and the Eurocrats in Brussels," he said before a crowd estimated at 40,000 by the National Front organisers and at about 11,000 by the police.

The rally was the largest to be staged by the National Front after the party's recent success in provincial elections, but organisers claim that the demonstration would be double the size of last year's were not fulfilled. Police said that numbers were up by only about 2,000.

National Front supporters, presumably in an effort to reinforce rather than ridicule M. Le Pen's speech, erected vast plaster sculptures of a euro coin with teeth, a gagged bust of Marianne, the French national symbol, and a lemon squeezer, to illustrate his repeated warnings that France will be "squeezed dry" by a

single currency and a globalised Europe that is the "new slavery".

M. Le Pen's speech, coming three days before a by-election in Toulon that the National Front is expected to win, offered a eulogy to the franc, which he described as "a visible part of our national sovereignty, which is being torn from us".

The National Front leader told his followers: "Let us strike against the euro, let us remain faithful to the franc and, this year, let us mobilise in force for the European elections of 1999."

The National Front leader will be banned from running in European elections if a recent assault conviction against him is upheld.



Le Pen: tirade against the American media

New symbol set to gain rapidly in currency

BY PHILIP HOWARD



THE crescent-shaped "e" crossed by twin bars is about to become as familiar to shoppers and global bankers as the \$ and £ signs.

The symbol for the euro, which is born today, combines several features of currency symbolism. Most continental currencies have logical alphabetical symbols: DM for the mark, FF for French franc, SF for Swiss franc. The twin crossed lines are old accountants' signs to signal money, and to distinguish a symbolic letter from its other non-currency meanings. For this reason continental currencies cross their ts to distinguish them from their ls with long upper serifs, and Os (nights) on a computer keyboard carry a transverse slash in order to distinguish them from Os.

The symbol for the pound is predictably antiquarian and romantic. It is an L standing for libra, the Roman pound.

During the Carolingian period (a previous attempt at a federal Europe), the Roman pound (12 ounces) of pure silver was coined into 240 silver pennies. The little crossbar signals that this capital L stands for money.

The American dollar is appropriately mongrel and politically correct. The word is a variant of *thaler* (Low German *Dahler*, Danish *daler*) and means a valley. At the close of the 15th century the Counts of Schlick coined ounce-pieces from the mines of Joachim's Tal (Joachim's valley). These pieces, called Joachim's Talers or Schlickentalers, gained such repute that they became standard coin. Other coins came to be called thalers, crossed the Atlantic and changed to dollars.

Several explanations have been put forward for the dollar sign. A likely explanation is that it is a modification of the figure 8 as it appeared on the old Spanish "pieces of eight", which were of the same value as the dollar.

So the euro combines these elements. The E is the initial letter of the coinage. The crossed lines signal cash. And the elongated C crossed by two little parallel lines harks back to Charlemagne and Caesar, the previous occasions when Europe had a common currency.

Paris: As Europe awaits the birth of the euro, one element of uncertainty has been removed by formally establishing what sex the single currency will be: it's a boy, at least in French (Ben Macintyre writes). After several months of debate, a French government language panel has formally ruled that the new word is masculine in French. Thus the correct term in French will be "leuro" or "un euro".

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Blair clones vie for power on Continent

Social Democrats, after years of feuding, see Britain's leader as a role model, writes Roger Boyes



Kok drinking from elixir of youth before Dutch polls

IN *The Boys from Brazil*, a popular suspense novel of the 1960s, an evil mastermind clones little Hitlers who spread around the globe, coldly murdering anyone foolish enough to stand in their way.

Now, it seems, we have the Boys from Britannia: Wim Kok, Gerhard Blair, Oskar Blair, Slobodan Blair, even, in Paris, Lionel Blair who does not even tap-dance. No murders have been committed by these Tony clones, but there is something ruthless about their drive for power.

All that connects Wim Kok, the silver-haired Dutch Prime Minister, with the British Prime Minister is the commitment to social democracy and to sprucing up the message. Out go the paunchy, chain-smoking, crimson-faced, hard union men, the backroom power brokers; in come the fit and fashionable. German schoolchildren this week, invited to portray Cool Britannia and win a cup of tea with Robin Cook, the Foreign Sec-

retary, showed the Prime Minister in sneakers and Pepe jeans. All around Europe there are Social Democrats trying to squeeze into jeans.

Mr Kok is 59. Only the imminent arrival of a difficult general election next Wednesday is encouraging him to sip from the elixir of British youth.

Gerhard Schröder, recently proclaimed as the Social Democrats rival to Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, is happy to ride along on Mr Blair's coat-tails.

Herr Schröder is careful not to identify completely with Mr Blair. "There are very many people in Germany who detect a missionary stare in Mr Blair's eyes," says Bela Anda, who has written a biography of Herr Schröder. "Schröder does not want to be seen as a missionary." On his fourth wife and with an undimmed love of cigars and strong beer, it is the hard centre rather than the soft edges of Mr Blair that his German counterparts



Jospin, left, envies Tony Blair's skills, while Schröder, centre, and Lafontaine admire his modern socialism



most admire. There is a fascination for Peter Mandelson, who has shown that it is possible to professionalise campaigning, to simulate party unity and out of the appearance of unity, to produce the real thing. For European Social Democrats, accustomed to decades of wrangling that is little short of voodoo,

admiration for new Labour is based on "the successful attempt to combine modernity with social responsibility"; in fact it is about winning and having won, how to remain popular.

Oskar Lafontaine, the party chairman, has been conducting a close study of Mr Blair. He has understood from the new Labour campaign, that

the pantomime of unity has to be carefully plotted if it is to convince: the Leipzig party conference last month saw Oskar and Gerhard Blair milling through happy faces to the background of a music and light show.

Mr Blair's ability to speak in tongues is envied throughout the socialist community in Europe. To the National Assembly in Paris he spoke French, but he also spoke Gaullist - free markets - and Communist - social justice. Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, may be the Gallic equivalent of old Labour, but he, too, envies Mr Blair's positional skills. Like Marks & Spencer in Paris, Mr Blair is a necessary evil: he cannot be wished away.

The Blair export model has been taken up by some odd characters. Yugoslav President Milosevic complained a while ago that he was misunderstood by the West: he was,

in fact, the Blair of the Balkans, tugging Serbian socialism into the 21st century.

Old style Social Democrats believe in a social redistribution of resources in times of prosperity and flounder in bad times. Blairite social democracy shifts the focus from redistribution to social mobility and the responsibility of the individual; it therefore gets less battered politically during economic downturns.

The crumbling of Christian Democracy as a force in Europe has made it easier to occupy the middle ground. For East Europeans there never was any choice but to embrace Blairite policies. The old Communist parties have to remodel themselves into Social Democrats. Most of the new managerial class were former Communists. So, in Poland, Hungary and elsewhere, former leftwingers became zealous supporters of the free market.



Bald honesty: Tony Blair comes clean about his hair

Time to admit it's tough on the top

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR finally conceded yesterday that he has lost one increasingly public battle since he entered Downing Street. He is going bald and grey at the same time.

The Prime Minister blamed his rapidly diminishing follicular assets on the tremendous pressure of work.

Downing Street spin-doctors resolutely refused to discuss whether the Prime Minister had tried to stop the decline by tinting his hair or using a volumising shampoo to give the increasingly sparse wisps some added bounce. But Mr Blair was put on the spot yesterday, on GMTV, about where he stood on his fluctuating hairstyle. "We stand in whatever suits me when I wake up," he said.

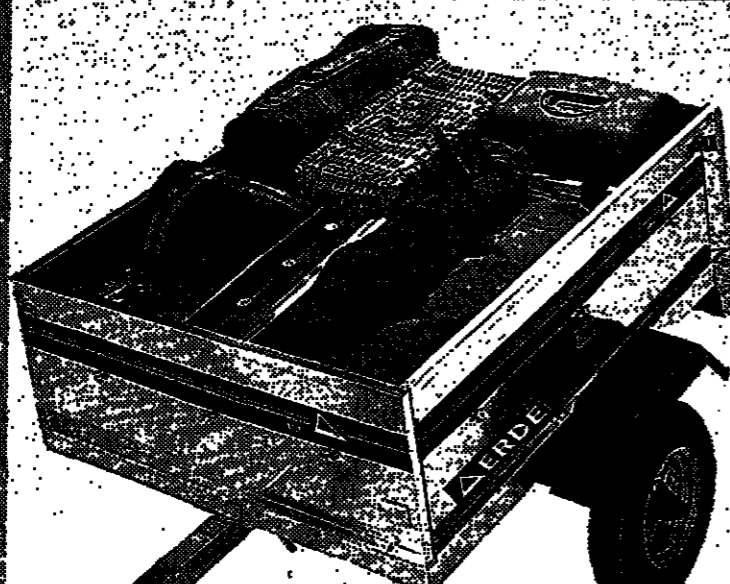
"If you, like me, perhaps don't pay as much attention to these things as you should ... it is certainly getting greyer and less. I think that comes with the job." Mr Blair

was urged by some of his women colleagues to abandon his frizz-prone cut which wavered between bouffant and windswept in place of a no-nonsense style which no longer bothered to conceal the bits which show up under the television lights. He took their advice.

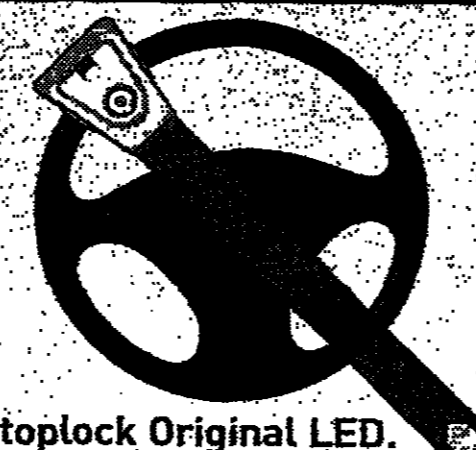
The changeover was masterminded by Mr Blair's longstanding crimpier Maurice Miller, 47, who has a salon in London's West End, and one in Ruistip, Middlesex. He charges £32 for a shampoo and cut but refuses to discuss his most famous client. "We are not allowed to talk about it," said one member of staff yesterday.

Mr Blair also confessed yesterday to another drawback of running the Government. He will miss seeing his favourite football team, Newcastle United, play Arsenal in the FA Cup Final at Wembley later this month.

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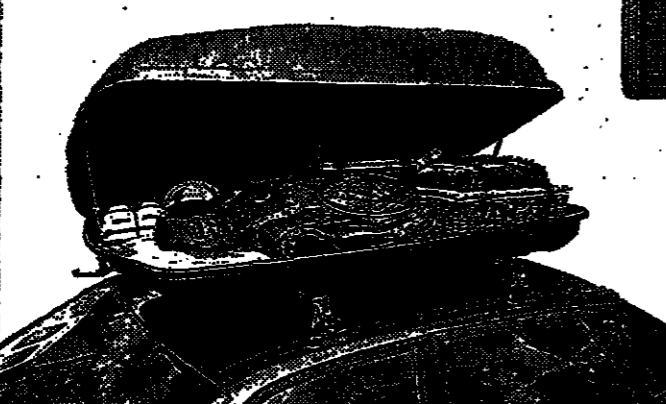
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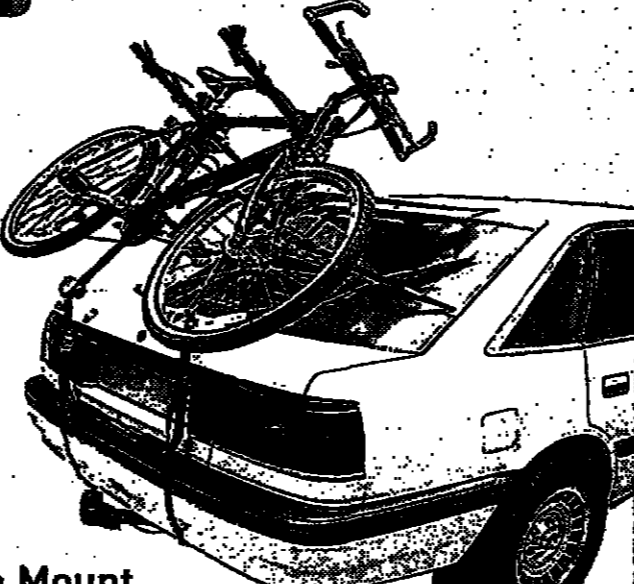
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'It Girl' is big hit at box office

CHINA CHOW is cutting a swath through cafe-society with her first film, *The Big Hit*. The British-born daughter of Michael Chow, the celebrity restaurateur, and the tragic model, Tina Chow, is upstaging her famous parents as a movie star, cover girl and style-setter.

She is dating Mark Wahlberg, one of America's most desired pin-ups, appears in fashion spreads for DKNY, and recently made Eleanor Lambert's list of the world's 12 best-dressed women, alongside Anna Wintour and Nicole Kidman. What is more, *The Big Hit* this week hit the top of the US box office charts with \$11 million (£7 million) in receipts. In short, she's America's latest It Girl.

Born in London in 1974, Ms Chow seldom frequented her father's Mr Chow restaurants in South Kensington, New York and Los Angeles when growing up because she was too busy helping her mother through an unsuccessful battle with Aids. She has inherited that insouciant style that once enabled Tina to make a white T-shirt and jeans look like haute couture.

Ms Chow, 24, has recently been rubbing shoulders with the "fashionistas" in the company of her father as he stages parties to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the opening of his original London restaurant.

She is reading scripts for another film part, but refuses to go to castings and modelling "cattle calls" because she is, she says, not just a pretty face. Last year she completed a psychology degree at Scripps College in California and she talks of pursuing a painting career. 1998 is the Chinese Year of the Tiger, and that suits her just fine.



China Chow has inherited her mother's style

Wrist gets better of Crisp

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



THE Naked Civil Servant is afflicted by more than a limp wrist. Holding up his malfunctioning hand in his favourite East Village coffee shop, Quentin Crisp, the octogenarian British homosexual who is revered by American gays, complains that he is suffering from "carpal tunnel something".

The condition prevents him typing, and he has had to give up his writing career. His drag queen friends are trying to raise money for an operation on his wrist. But he says with characteristic aplomb: "I will do it myself and it will be forever."

When his wrist started playing up, his agent died and his column in a local gay newspaper ended all in a single month. Crisp took it as a sign and gave up writing for conversation. He now spends most of his days in his self-imposed exile sitting in the window of his favourite coffee shop, button-holing innocent passers-by with his witty tales. Despite his years, he finds himself increasingly in demand.

When we met, he had just recorded a television advertisement for Honda, and had only recently returned from performing a one-man show on the West Coast, telling

Californians how to be happy. Confirming his celebrity, he has been measured for a waxwork for the new Madame Tussaud's in Times Square. "Why I have become a national hero I cannot imagine, because I thought I was a hopeless case," he said. "Every closet door I opened, people said, 'Don't come here', so I couldn't be in the closet."

"In England, I am frowned on by the real people and accepted by the gay people. Here I am accepted by the real people and frowned on by the gay people because I cannot deal with the shrillness with which the gay people cope with their fate. You don't disrupt services in cathedrals. You are only integrated when you say, 'I'm gay' and people say, 'And then...?' But the gay people here do not want to be ignored. They want to be there, infinitely there."

Stressed executives here are paying \$130 (£75) to get stoned. Stone Spa uses hot rocks and warm oil to massage customers for 80 minutes with a mix of native American tradition and New Age healing techniques.

Dame Diana Rigg's policy of not talking to female journalists apparently only extends to the sirens of the British press. The former *Avengers* girl told a female gossip columnist in New York that Britain's press queens are "an ordeal". She says: "There are no rules of decency with English women journalists, and no manners - unlike Americans." Dame Diana is still remembered here for her tour de force on stage in *Medea* several years ago, but celebrity is threatening to catch up with her when Uma Thurman reprises her original role as Emma Peel in the forthcoming film version of *The Avengers*.



Quentin Crisp holds court at his favourite coffee shop in New York's East Village

Isle gains place on crime map

SHELTER ISLAND, the former smugglers' haven in Gardiner's Bay, off Long Island, which is a favourite summer retreat of British expatriates in New York, has just suffered its first murder. A short ferry ride from the rest of civilisation, this tranquil outpost with a winter population of just 3,000 has been insulated for centuries from the violence that has become commonplace in the city and its suburbs. The victim in the case, a 300-year history who had been abusing his eight-year-old niece, was taken the neighbourly custody.

A watchdog called Citizens Government Watch launched a search in worst pot-holes in the States. I'm going in to inform them ten happen to be on in SoHo. The other dustbin lorry disappeared.

Ivana's trump

"I MAY be blonde, but I'm not stupid." Ivana Trump announced melodramatically when I brought up the subject of the London lawsuit brought by Lady Elizabeth Anson, a party planner and cousin of the Queen. The row revolves around Lady Anson's £36,000 bill for a 1993 party she organised for Mrs Trump at Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons.

At Mrs Trump's request, the Appeals Court recently overturned a default judgment in Lady Anson's favour and referred the matter to the Crown Court. The "Bouncing Czech", former wife of property magnate Donald Trump, considers the dispute "ridiculous" and says she has spent more money on legal fees to fight the case than she would have if she had just paid up. "It's over



Trump: refusing to pay restaurant bill

unless she starts from scratch, which I doubt," Mrs Trump says. "She cannot afford it, but I can. I hate to waste money, but when it's a question of principle you have to."

New Yorkers unable to obtain a prescription for the new male wonder-drug Viagra can pick up a new product known as the "eraction-pen". It looks like an innocuous plastic pen, but when the top is removed it exudes a rich aroma that is supposed to set men's blood rushing. The scent is actually a sickly-sweet mixture of cinnamon and pumpkin. (Available for women: The "pre-menstrual syndrome pen" in "deep chocolate cherry").

Bryan Hull has had his record-breaking run in an off-Broadway musical broken by a broken leg. The 60-year-old actor fell outside the Sullivan Street Theatre in Greenwich Village where *The Fantasticks* has become the world's longest-running show in its original theatre. He hopes to be back by summer.



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Bloodshed leader pleads guilty to genocide

BY SAM KILBY
A CORRESPONDENT



Kagame: summoned Hutus to 'final war'

Paul Kagame, former Prime Minister of Rwanda, yesterday pleaded six counts of genocide against humanity. He will shatter the hearts of 23 other Hutu accused of involvement in the slaughter of Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994.

Kagame, a dark man in a dark suit and tie, stood before a courtroom. He was surrounded by legal teams and other individuals. The atmosphere was somber and tense. Kagame's plea was a significant moment in the trials of those responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

Kagame's plea was a significant moment in the trials of those responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. He pleaded guilty to six counts of genocide against humanity, including the slaughter of Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994. He was surrounded by legal teams and other individuals in the courtroom.

In Arusha, said Kambanda's testimony, and his written confession, will show that the genocide was well organised and carried out with horrifying enthusiasm. Kambanda had been accused by survivors of exhorting Hutu extremists to slaughter Tutsis in Rwanda's second largest city, Butare, in April 1994. Up to 300,000 people were shot, clubbed to death, slashed with machetes or thrown into pits filled with burning tyres after he spoke at the city's stadium.

On April 19, Kambanda visited Butare, where many Tutsis had fled killings in the capital, Kigali, in the hope of shelter from the local prefect, also a Tutsi. Disappointed with the slow pace of extermination, Kambanda and President Sindikubwabo called a rally on April 20 at which they rallied against the Tutsi minority. Kambanda told a packed football stadium that what was happening in Rwanda was a "final war".

"It must be finished... the state, the military, the people have decided to wage this war, and to win it," he yelled.

Afterwards members of the *Interahamwe*, the extremist Hutu militia, mad with blood from the slaughter in Kigali, were flown to Butare to lead other Hutus into the killing fields. Put up by the Government in a hotel, the *Interahamwe* dragged Tutsi university students from their rooms and shot them. Tutsis and moderate Hutu doctors and nurses in the hospital were butchered at the start of an orgy of bloodletting which went on for 70 days.

Colonel Theoneste Bagasora, the former permanent secretary in the Defence Ministry who served under Kambanda after the mysterious assassination of President Habyarimana, has insisted that no genocide took place. He is one of those awaiting trial in Arusha.

Michael Inglis, Kambanda's lawyer, said that he had shown "courage and even wisdom" in entering a guilty plea.



Staff inspect high-speed track at Sekigahara, where 25 bolts had been removed

Sabotage threat to Japanese 'Bullet'

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

JAPANESE police and railway officials were on nationwide alert yesterday after they received threats to derail high-speed Shinkansen "bullet" trains and kill thousands of passengers. The threats were made in anonymous letters after an apparent sabotage attempt in which 25 bolts were removed from a rail track.

Station masters across Japan received letters warning them of a wave of derailments with the aim of killing more than 10,000 people during "Golden Week", the holiday during which trains are packed to capacity.

The alert came after a railway worker discovered the 25 bolts missing from a 15-year stretch of track in Gifu Prefecture, central Japan, where Bullet trains would have travelled at 158 mph. The discovery was made in the morning before trains started running. Police said they did not know the motive for the action.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Nigerians killed in anti-junta protest

Three civilians were killed and five wounded when pro-democracy activists clashed with police during May Day protests against the Nigerian military junta in the southwestern city of Ibadan yesterday (Sam Kiley writes). Eyewitnesses said the police opened fire in attempts to crush nationwide protests planned by banned opposition parties.

The violence happened as protesters tried to set fire to a building owned by a businessman backing the military regime. The Government claimed that opposition groups planned a wave of bombings to upset the "transition to democracy", in which the military leader, General Sani Abacha, is the only presidential candidate. Ibadan, in the Yoruba tribal heartland, is a focus of opposition to the junta. **Leading article, page 21**

Croat camp commander held

A Croatian fascist who commanded a Second World War concentration camp known as the "Balkan Auschwitz" has been arrested in Argentina (Tom Walker writes). If extradited to Zagreb, as seems likely, the trial of Dinko Sakic, 76, will reopen some of the ugliest chapters in Croatian history. His lawyer was quoted in Buenos Aires yesterday as saying that he would not appeal against extradition. At least 30,000 Serbs died in the notorious Jasenovac camp.

Blasphemy death sentence

Karachi: A prison court in Punjab province, Pakistan, has sentenced Ayub Masih, a Christian peasant, to death for blasphemy (Zahid Hussain writes). Masih, 25, was charged with making blasphemous remarks against the Prophet Muhammad. The Independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan says Masih was falsely implicated after a feud with a Muslim landlord who occupied his land. The trial was held in jail after Masih escaped an assassination attempt last year.

Rats' demise puzzles Nasa

Washington: Nasa is investigating the sudden death of at least 51 baby rats on board the space shuttle *Columbia* as six scientists struggle to use the remaining litter for their research (Tom Rhodes writes). A batch of 110 rodents was blasted into space less than two weeks ago, including 96 that were a week old at launch. More than half have died, apparently abandoned by their mothers. Officials at Nasa have been mystified by the deaths which come two years after a successful mission in which rats of a similar age were used.

Veterinarians at the Kennedy Space Centre will investigate whether some of the mother rats are not behaving as they would on the ground. Scientists believe the difficulties of suckling in space may be a factor in the deaths.

China 'aims warheads at US'

Washington: China has 13 nuclear warheads aimed at the United States, according to a leaked CIA report that contradicts President Clinton's claim that America is no longer a target for missile attacks (Tom Rhodes writes). The report, leaked to *The Washington Times*, was sent to officials in advance of a visit to Beijing by Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State. It says that 13 CSS4 missiles, the majority of China's 18 long-range strategic weapons, are aimed at the United States.

TV shows HIV suicide live

Los Angeles: A man who brought two motorways to a halt, then shot himself in a suicide shown live on television during interrupted children's programmes, was HIV-positive and was denied care by his health insurer, his sister said (Giles Whitell writes). Five TV helicopters hovered over Daniel Jones, 40, near Los Angeles airport as the suicide unfolded. His dog died when he set his pick-up truck on fire.

Yeltsin's envoy kidnapped

Moscow: President Yeltsin's special envoy in the breakaway republic of Chechnya was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen on the main road west of the capital, Grozny (Robin Lodge writes). The Kremlin immediately sent a delegation headed by Ilya Rybkin, an experienced negotiator with the Chechen authorities, to try to secure the release of Valentin Vlasov.

Missing tanker's crew found

Malacca: The missing tanker *Petro Ranger*, feared hijacked with its \$1.5 million (£900,000) cargo of diesel and paraffin ten days ago, has been found, relatives of the 21 crew said. The ship's agents, Petroships, confirmed that the crew had been found safe in the southern Chinese port of Haikou, but could not confirm that a ship found with them was the tanker. (AFP)

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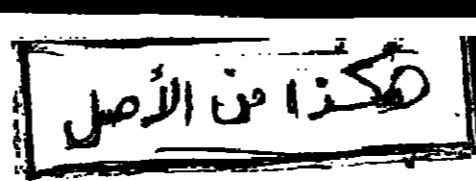
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Cover-up of '68 death unveiled

Police kept a secret that threatened de Gaulle, reports Ben Macintyre

THE night of May 24, at the height of the Paris riots, a young man named Philippe Matherion found himself crumpled beside a barricade near the Seine, mortally wounded by police gunfire. A few hours later he died in hospital, and an extraordinary ruse was set in train that only now come to light: the opening of secret police archives, revealing an act that 30 years later has helped to change the perspective on those chaotic events.

Philippe Matherion was just another face in the rebellious crowd that defied the power to bring down de Gaulle. The city authorities were aware that if a riot emerged as a victim of police brutality and a riot, the effect would be disastrous. De Gaulle's Government was teetering, with 10 workers on strike and rioting violence in the streets.

The night of Matherion's death, the President addressed the nation, was greeted with derision. De Gaulle appeared to be idling resignation; his public outburst might have left him no choice. Government would maintain, as a matter of fact, that a single protest died in street fighting, though a new book by Jean-François Revel, as Foccart, de Gaulle's chief of staff, shows that, with greater force should be used against the riots, regardless of the loss of life.

Post-mortem examination showed that Matherion, who died from internal injury after being struck by a grenade, but with the stability of France in the hands of the authorities, the agreement of Matherion's bourgeois and staunchly Gaullist parents, opted to hide the truth.



Students on Paris's Left Bank confronting riot police near the Sorbonne student quarter during the demonstrations of May 1968

This death could have provoked a very violent reaction, Maurice Grimaud, then Paris Prefect of Police, said in a recent interview with L'Express. "His father said that he did not want the students to exploit the memory of his son. So the family kept silent. If it had gone the other way, the repercussions could have been very different."

The press was informed that Matherion's death was simply an isolated street stabbing, a "settling of scores", implying criminal activity and suggesting that Matherion was partly to blame.

That was complete rubbish, put out to cover up the incident, but it allowed the authorities to divert attention the next day from what had been a pretty agitated night, Christian Gaudin, a close friend of Matherion's since childhood, said. Three decades later, M

Grimaud, who had two student sons manning the barricades against his police force at the time, appeared to suggest that Matherion, "a student", may have been taking an active part in the violence. "We don't know whether he was hit by the grenade or whether he was trying to throw it back," he said. In fact,



Maurice Grimaud, then Prefect of the Paris police, being decorated by General de Gaulle in 1969

Matherion would have made a most unlikely martyr for the radical Left, since he was quite unconnected with the student movement and, by all accounts, the last person who would have taken part in any violence.

"He was sympathetic to the Right politically, but he was no extremist," insists M Gaudin. "He was not a student. He worked installing hi-fi systems, and in his father's property business."

In perhaps the most poignant chapter of the story, Matherion's son, now aged 36, has come forward to give his own interpretation of events. In a letter describing how his father had been left bleeding on the pavement "for three or four hours", because the ambulance service was busy dealing with other injuries.

That was a time when everyone was forced to choose an ideology, and the fact that my father has been linked to various political movements is surely a reflection of that troubled time," wrote Gilles Matherion, who is now an air steward. "Rather, my father sought to take part in the movement of life, a movement that had already deprived him of his wife three years earlier, and left him alone with a small son."

For years it was claimed that the riots had caused no civilian fatalities. Matherion's death proves otherwise, but perhaps more importantly it has also helped to dispel the myth that everyone connected to May '68 was either a revolutionary firebrand or a committed reactionary. Many young Parisians, like Matherion, were simply inquisitive bystanders, although even now the mere mention of May '68 provokes political posturing like no other event in modern French history.

"Rather than argue about the ins and outs of this death," wrote Gilles Matherion, "I would just like to say that my father's presence at that place and time sprang from his desire to understand what was happening. In that, he was like thousands of others who also took to the streets but who, unlike him, had the opportunity to recount those events to their children."

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Giddy logic in Viennese whirl of debauchery

THEATRE
Measure for Measure
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford

Where *The Merchant of Venice*, though an obnoxious play, adequately functions within its own offensive terms, *Measure for Measure* ends by offending both humane sympathy and the rules of dramatic coherence.

Isabella's "More than our brother is our chastity" is not a sentiment likely to find modern favour, but her chilling attachment to virginity is not what makes the play repugnant. The skulking Duke is the character who sticks in the gullet, his cruelty and deceptions presented as a legitimate, even Christ-like, testing of his subjects.

Revels of the play make some sense because actors of the quality of Stephen Boxer deserve their chance at the role of Angelo, even if the second half gives him just one significant speech. Boxer's delivery of these lines of remorse is so heartfelt that the blood appears to have drained from his face. Earlier, his vocal clarity and the musical life he gives the lines credibly create a man who is self-conscious but not yet self-aware. Immaculately dressed in a white Dr No suit, at the words, "Sir, he must die," he remains poised with an arm elegantly outstretched, already seeing himself as his own marble statue.



Michael Boyd: bold alteration

Clare Holman makes occasional coherence of Isabella, and admiration of her silence before forgiving Angelo is not a backhanded compliment. We sense her mind altering, providing a decent moment in an otherwise indecent conclusion.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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US Senate ratifies Nato expansion to Russia's borders

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AFTER years of talk but little debate, the US Senate has overwhelmingly ratified Nato enlargement and set the stage yesterday for an historic treaty that will embrace three former Cold War enemies in the alliance.

Senators passed the Bill by 80-19, a margin which easily provided the two-thirds majority needed for the first time into Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, territory once dominated by the former Soviet Union.

The message this vote sends is clear: American support for Nato is firm, our leadership for security on both sides of the Atlantic is strong, and there is a solid, bipartisan foundation for an active US role in the world. America will be the fifth country to support Nato expansion, joining Germany, Canada, Denmark and Norway.

Enlarging the alliance will redraw Europe's former Cold War boundaries, pushing Nato to the borders of Russia and committing British, American and other allied forces to the defence of the three former Warsaw Pact countries. Senate opposition from ten Democrats and nine Republicans had included some of the chamber's most liberal and conservative elements, including Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a New York Democrat, and John Warner,



Helms supported the White House view

a Virginia Republican. This minority claimed the treaty would reverse the post-Cold-War democratic process in Russia, stretch the alliance to breaking point, cost billions to the American taxpayer and push US soldiers into unwelcome peacekeeping missions.

Susan Eisenhower, chair of the Centre for Political and Strategic Studies in Washington and a granddaughter of Dwight Eisenhower, said the decision was the greatest error in US foreign policy since the fall of the Berlin Wall. However, months of behind-the-scenes talks by both the Administration and Congress - a rare coalition that saw Mr Clinton and Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, fighting the same cause as Senator Jesse Helms, the powerful Republican chairman of foreign relations, and Senator Trent Lott, the Republican Majority Leader - gave opponents an impossible task.



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THE WINDRUSH IMMIGRANTS: BLACK BRITONS 50 YEARS ON

Troopship that changed the face of the nation

Nicholas Wood on the impact of 492 Jamaicans who set sail for a new life in Britain in 1948

JOHN RICHARDS has helped to change the face of Britain. Fifty years ago this month, Mr Richards, in his snazzy felt hat and pinstriped suit, was among 492 Jamaicans who set sail for Tilbury in the former troopship Empire Windrush.

With Mr Richards's arrival at Tilbury in June 1948, large-scale immigration from the West Indies had begun and was to rise from a couple of thousand a year in the early 1950s to 60,000 a decade later.

Postwar Britain seemed a land of opportunity. Jobs were plentiful and politicians such as the late Enoch Powell were pressing Caribbeans to come over to rebuild the mother country and run its trains, buses, post offices and health services.

But Mr Richards and his shipmates have made their mark on British society. From the patrolling official welcome of 1948 to the Notting Hill riots ten years later, Powell's apocalyptic warning of a decade on and the Brixton riots of 1981, race relations have never been far from the headlines.



John Richards with his wife, Maudlyn. In retirement, he follows English cricket — but still supports the West Indies

has become the new orthodoxy, conspicuously endorsed by the new Conservative leader, William Hague, when he showed his espousal of a more inclusive Toryism by attending the Notting Hill carnival.

Many blacks and whites agree that race relations have improved since the 1970s, when the rise of the National Front provoked anti-racist marches, and the early 1980s, with their savage street clashes.

The sociologist Stuart Hall, a Jamaican, says that, for the first time, the white mainstream is admitting blacks. In the 1960s and 1970s black people had to choose between assimilation and permanent exclusion. But today ethnic

minorities are finding ways to be both British and black.

But it is not easy. Many white people still believe it is impossible to be both, says the radical black journalist Darcus Howe. He is gloomier about a multicultural future after Channel 4's mock trial of Powell, in which the studio audience acquitted him of being a racist.

"The moral climate makes it difficult for people to bark and scream what they think. People get embarrassed to be called racist. But there was a cobra-like hiss in the studio audience with whites from the Midlands when Powell was attacked."



Mr Richards's passport photograph in 1948

of 1990. "Which side do they cheer for?" he asked.

Mr Richards, who arrived in Britain just in time to see Bradman bow out of Test cricket with a duck at the Oval in his last game for the 1948 Australians, supports Eng-

land when they are playing the likes of Australia. But he looks at you with something approaching scorn when you suggest that he might desert his beloved West Indies.

He typifies the resilient and uncompaining first genera-



Mr Richards, right, on the Empire Windrush. He found work on the railways

tion of West Indian immigrants, who got their heads down, got a job and ignored the racial slights they suffered from bigoted landlords and prejudiced employers.

He prefers to speak of the kindness of his fellow workers at the Orpington rail depot on the Southern Region.

nice people around, you don't let a couple of silly people upset you."

But as our interviews opposite show, the second generation of immigrants, those who came of age at the time of the Paris *événements* of 1968 and the assassination of Martin Luther King, were less inclined to turn the other cheek. They forced a change in the law, they marched, they fought the National Front. In Brixton, they took on the police. Black veterans of those

battles say the policies of the day were appalling with all non-whites regarded as criminals. After Lord Seaman endorsed community living, tensions have eased. The third generation black immigrants, the grandchildren of men like Richards, seems to have in common with the grays. Hard-hit by the recent recessions, they more worried about finding work than storming barricades.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

BASINGER CONFIDENTIAL

"So there I was, with virgin blonde hair down to my waist and I'd never been touched by anybody..."

From bimbo, to bankrupt, to Best Supporting Actress.
A revealing interview with Kim Basinger — The Sunday Times tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

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From a King Manch

WHAT THEY SAID

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SEATS FOR THE PRICK OF

AN INSPECTOR CAL

THE WINDRUSH IMMIGRANTS: BLACK BRITONS 50 YEARS ON

From a shack in Kingston to Manchester JP

By NICHOLAS WOOD

EUTON CHRISTIAN has come a long way over the past half a century. As a boy he lived in abject poverty in a one-room wooden hut in Kingston, Jamaica. Today, after retiring from his job as a middle manager for the Post Office, he is the proud owner of a £65,000 Edwardian semi in Manchester.

Caribbean for the damp Manchester winters. "My life in this country has been fulfilled by the achievements I have been able to make by remaining here," he says. "I am very proud of my girls. I was at first disheartened that I didn't have a son. But the way the girls have behaved towards us makes me very proud of them."

Yvonne was head girl at her comprehensive school and Elaine was a model before becoming a sales manager in the rag trade. But Aaron, 25, Angela's son from her first marriage, has not had a proper job since leaving school and complains that he feels alienated from the world around him.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY. A family tree diagram showing Euton Christian (b.1923) and Louise Ashbourne (b.1924) as parents. Children include Angela (b.1951), Alexander (b.1971), John Wardle (b.1952), Yvonne (b.1952), Elaine (b.1953), and John Hough (b.1987). Grandchildren include Aaron (b.1972), Sophia (b.1988), and Olivia (b.1991).

WHAT THEY SAID

These people have British passports and they must be allowed to land. There's nothing to worry about because they won't last one winter in England. — Margaret Thatcher, 1978

FEWER HOMEOWNERS, MORE JOBLESS

Black Caribbean numbers 500,000 compared with 840,000 people of Indian origin. The total black population in Britain including Africans and mixed race people, is 900,000.

Three generations' struggle for acceptance

THE FATHER

SAM KING, 72, typifies the sturdy independence of the first wave of immigrants. The wartime RAF veteran bought his first house in Camberwell, South London, in 1950 and set up the "partner" scheme of pooled loans to help other West Indians to clamber on to the property ladder.

THE SON

MICHAEL KING was the victim of blatant racism at the fee-paying Alley's School in Dulwich, South London, more than 20 years ago. And he believes that the Brixton riots, which he witnessed, were the bitter fruit of police brutality towards blacks.

THE GRANDCHILD

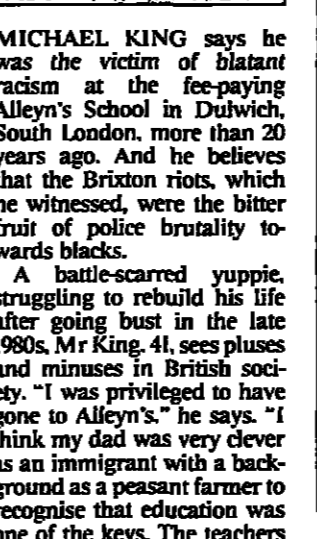
DIONE KING is the apple of her father's eye — and her grandfather's. Dione, 21, passed three A levels at Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College in New Cross, south-east London, and is studying for her psychology finals at Luton University.



Sam King served in the RAF in Britain during the war



Michael King



Dione King

Advertisement for AN INSPECTOR CALLS, featuring a Times Reader offer for two best seats for the price of one. Includes showtimes and ticket information for Garrick Theatre.

Theater listings for Cambridge, Drury Lane, Haymarket, and other venues, including plays like 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'The Woman in Black'.

Theater listings for Palace Theatre, Queens, and other venues, including plays like 'The Merchant of Venice' and 'The Space Vikings'.

Advertisement for Beautiful Theatre Experience, featuring a variety of shows and performances at different venues.

Advertisement for Music in Country Churches, listing various church events and performances.

Vertical sidebar containing various small advertisements, notices, and classifieds.

Don't tell me what to read, Mr Straw

Magnus Linklater trusts the writer who got to the heart of Mary Bell

I am proud to declare an interest in the Mary Bell case. I have known and worked with Gitta Sereny many times and consider her one of the finest journalists of my generation. It is about all I can find to be proud of at the end of a disgraceful week for press and politicians alike, one that has seen full licence given to the morality of the lynch mob, backed by a layer of hypocrisy as breathtaking as it has been sickening.

In the course of it a mother and an innocent child have been exposed to the kind of harassment which, at the time of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, we naively believed had been forsaken. And some ministers have appeared to give the media carte blanche to carry on.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, whose article in *The Sun* gave tacit encouragement to the tabloid press, now seems to be suggesting that books which explore the criminal mind should not be written at all. For a minister presiding over a penal system which presumably is still underpinned by principles of redemption and rehabilitation, this is a remarkable attitude. But it is no more extreme than the argument put forward by A.N. Wilson in the *London Evening Standard*: that the process of delving into the pathology of such crimes is inherently evil. Other reactions have been depressing because of the sources from which they emanate. *The Independent*, which once ran Ms Sereny's investigation of the Bulger case at great length, says *The Times* should not have serialised the Mary Bell story because the book, which presumably journalists there have not read, has nothing new to add. How can they know? And David Banks, a senior *Mirror* Group editor, who might easily have stuffed cheques through Mary Bell's door given half a chance, accuses her of invading our privacy.

Even to contemplate such a book was playing with fire

Watching Ms Sereny on *Channel Four News*, I was struck by one of the qualities that distinguishes her from most of her colleagues, and particularly from those ministers who have been playing so glibly to the gallery. She was, at the end of what must have been a horrendous week, not only composed, but concerned to explore the issues raised by Jon Snow as honestly as she could. Nothing was deflected. She has, of course, a case to answer. In deciding to pursue the Mary Bell story she knew there was a risk that it would end in precisely the exposure she wanted to avoid, wrecking Bell's carefully reconstructed life and that of her teenage daughter. The payment of money made it more likely that this would happen. Merely contemplating the book at all was playing with fire. She was, perhaps, naive in think-

ing that the press would continue to observe the injunction that protected Bell. She trusted too much that a television producer to whom she had to confide would understand the need for secrecy. She placed too much reliance on the Official Solicitor. Above all, the failure to talk to the victims' families before they learnt the news about the book from the media was an appalling lapse.

To understand why she felt the need to pursue the story, one has to know something of her relentless exploration of the darkest and most difficult secrets of human nature. From her early work with children scarred by the Holocaust in postwar Europe, to her pursuit of Franz Stangl, commandant of Treblinka extermination camp, to her deep analysis of the mentality of Albert Speer, she has found it almost impossible to leave unanswered the questions that others "why" lingers tabloid headlines whenever there is a case as shocking as Mary Bell's. Instead of their cheap pop psychology, Ms Sereny actually tries to find an answer. It is usually a gruelling process, not just for those to whom she talks but those who are sucked into the process.

I worked closely with her on a kidnapping case in Sicily where a teenager, Annabel Schild, and her mother, Daphne, had been held for more than a year. Ms Sereny was not content merely to follow the story. She arranged, through contacts for the Pope to appeal for their release from the balcony of St Peter's - an appeal that worked. When the Schilds were freed, she not only interviewed them for many hours, she persuaded the chief of police in Cagliari, to take them back to the mountain village where their captors lived, so that Annabel could talk to the bandit families - an act of reconciliation that had never been contemplated before.

I am quite certain that Mary Bell wanted to talk to her, not for the money, but because she no wanted answers, and perhaps a form of reconciliation too. It must have been a long and agonising business. But to suggest that it should not happen at all is to block off one of the most fundamental of all lines of inquiry: that which seeks to understand why, from time to time, we break the barriers of civilised behaviour. I would rather have Gitta Sereny explore this than *The Sun*. I would rather read her on Mary Bell than A.N. Wilson. But, most important of all, I would rather have the right to read her than be told by a Cabinet minister that there are some things that I am not allowed to read at all.



The culture and the biz

Has Gerry Robinson taken over the Arts Council in order to nationalise Britain's creative service industries?

The past year has been a parched desert for critics of the Government. But in recent weeks a drop of cool water fell on their lips. A group of "luvvies" turned on the hand that was feeding them champagne and bit it hard. For reasons not immediately clear, leaders of *Blur* and *Pulp* savaged Tony Blair in the music press. John Prescott, sent clubbing by his image-makers, was attacked by a punk. Then Ben Elton, prince among luvvies, used his television show to denounce "Cool Britannia" as "vacuous crap".

Now the Government's new Arts Council chairman has been sent to sort this lot out. He is Gerry Robinson, head of Granada, and a member of the Government's "other luvvies", the business community. He has allegedly been given two remits. The first is executive, to resolve the shambles into which arts finance has degenerated. The second is political, to blow apart the old definition of subsidisable arts, and spread the boon of central government aid to new and exciting areas.

The first job is easy, provided Mr Robinson is resistant to arts terrorism. It was once a member of a board that fell victim to an Arts Council cut, the Prospect Company at the Old Vic. The deed was done by the then chairman, Kenneth Robinson (no relation), with all the panache of *Macbeth* on the first night at Cawdor. He and his officials were damned from every stage in London. When they saw the bloodstained corpse, they gasped and vowed never to do such a thing again. Killing an arts company in those days was like clubbing baby seals.

The second task allotted to Mr Robinson will be less susceptible to macho management. The Government has realised that the arts of opera, ballet, music and live theatre, like the Pope, "have no divisions". They are indeed minor sports. In their place must descend the hordes of Oasis, Prodigy and Massive Attack, of movie moguls and television executives, of designers and Britpop artists. This week this New Model Army poured over the drawbridge of Windsor Castle itself and entered the Privy Chambers of the monarch. They march under the slogan of Tony Banks, the Culture Minister, that "art goes hand in hand with politics". When you are spending the people's money on art, you spend it on the people's art. You do not spend it on the prancing pastimes of toffedom.

bourgeois. Everybody turns out to be president of an appeal dinner or chairman of a development trust or a closet balletomane. All believe in art. All will "fight the cuts". Mr Robinson should go about society in disguise. He is not Lord Bountiful but the chief executioner.

Worse, he must now preside over the indefensible. He has to find a way of taking money from his booming National Lottery fund (£260 million) and giving it to his starved revenue clients (£180 million and falling). This is specifically not what the lottery was for, which was for one-off grants to buildings. But as Treasury support has dwindled, so the distortion away from art and towards buildings has become absurd. Millions have been splurged on construction, with no thought to paying for what happens inside. The most glaring instance of this is rising on the South Bank in London, a £20 million Imax cinema that may never be used, while the concrete wastes of the Festival Hall remain untouched. Why London needs a third Imax cinema is beyond comprehension.

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The Government's second name at present is unpredictable. Until now, Arts Council subsidies were granted by fairly open criteria. They went to those art forms that could not survive at a certain level of quality without help. This subsidy might be abused, and help might become entrenched in cronyism. But, for the most part, we

knew what the Arts Council was about, to keep in being that which would otherwise disappear.

Move from the traditional arts into "British culture" in the round, and how do you judge? Mr Robinson can obviously be left to subsidise anything he likes. As the Dadaists said: "If I say it is art, then it must be art."

There's long been much that is Dadaist about the Arts Council. But public money must be spent on declared criteria, and these are now obscure. The forthcoming film *Land Girls* had a grant, but not the *Full Monty*. Both are meritorious. But if the Government intends that the Arts Council should support an almost random selection of Britain's creative service industries, it must surely explain which ones and why. And if films, why not novels? If brass bands why not karaoke?

What we are witnessing is the tentative but progressive nationalisation of British culture. Subsidy intended to keep an institution alive is now subsidy to erect a complete cultural framework. Inside it, every activity will be guided by the subtle or not so subtle hand of grants. The old pluralism is dying. Local councils, once leading patrons of the arts in Britain, have had this patronage neutered by rate-capping. By far the biggest single patron of the arts, with a subsidy five times that of the Arts Council, is the BBC. It spends more than £100 million annually on performers alone and must be rated far more accessible in its patronage than the Arts Council. But it is immersed in a ratings war with commercial television. The lottery has brought huge sums into the arts and related activities such as sport, tourism and the heritage. But the lottery's independence of government has been short-lived. Within a decade it will have gone the way of the road fund and national insurance, straight into the Treasury. This is the way with nationalisation.

Where this leaves Mr Robinson's Council is hard to see. Its sister arm's-length body, the University Grants Committee, succumbed to the Thatcherite centralism in the Eighties. As the new chairman hacks his way through the jungle, his axe will be continually blunted on the concrete bunker of politics. But he is a radical. Perhaps he will know when the game is up. Perhaps he will be the last in a long and distinguished line.

in comes McQueen and Galliano, Jamiroquai and Prodigy.

The thesis that government should not be subsidising the poverty-stricken culture of the mostly rich (music and ballet) but the wealthy culture of the mostly poor (rock music and punk fashion) is stunning. It is the arts equivalent of naming and shaming schools. When Keynes founded the Arts Council after the war, he declared "Death to Hollywood" as its motto. This was widely and not unfairly seen by critics such as Raymond Williams as code for subsidising the leisure of the London elite. But even Williams could hardly have foreseen the latest consequence of his criticism.

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Simon Jenkins

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Going it alone

WINSTON CHURCHILL, the former Tory MP thrown into the political wilderness by William Hague, is to stand as an independent in next year's European elections. He is considering running under the banner of the Churchill Party after receiving a terse letter yesterday from Conservative Central Office confirming that he has not been chosen as a prospective MEP. Churchill's exclusion marks the end of his 30-year career with the party and invites parallels with his grandest ancestor. Sir Winston stood as an independent anti-socialist candidate in the 1924 general election.

"I am left with little option but to stand under my own name," he says. "I will use whatever avenue is open to represent a British constituency." Alan Clark, MP, feels the party's treatment of Churchill (pictured) shows that its obsession with modernising has exceeded its judgment: "It is absolutely disgraceful that the faceless apparatchiks in Central Office refused to put him on the list. By blocking little Winston, the party has its final



revenge: they twice tried to throw his grandfather out of the party." Let's hope Churchill has more success than Randolph, his father, who stood as an independent Conservative in Liverpool Wavertree in 1935: he split the Tory vote in half, allowing the Labour candidate to win.

● **ALEX FERGUSON**, the Manchester United manager, leaves more than broken dreams in the stadiums of vanquished opponents: "I don't stick my gum under the bench," says the notorious chewer. "I throw it on the pitch."

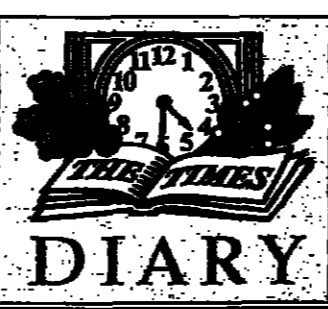
Heavy roller

BEN HOLLICAKE has received a "serious reprimand" from cricketing authorities for suggesting in a magazine article that he was stoned during a tour of Sri Lanka. The young cricketer, tipped as a future England captain, ran into trouble after giving an interview to *GO* while sitting around a table "strewn with Rizlas" and talking through a "thick fog" of smoke. "I'm babooned," Hollिकाке was quoted as saying. "Look at my eyes." Lords is not amused: "We have talked to the players and reminded them of their obligations as members of the national side." Perhaps Hollिकाке is bidding for Ian Botham's mantle.

● **NO WONDER** he won. Simon Kainor used the services of Jon Holmes, a top sports agent, to help to get transferred to the Editor's seat at *The Independent*. With clients such as Gary Lineker and Will Corting, Holmes is more used to making lucrative deals with crisp companies. The boy done good.

Final Straw

JACK STRAW is gaining a reputation as the meanest MP. He was



among a number of politicians asked to donate a personal item to raise funds for the constituency party of Janet Anderson, a Labour whip and the Home Secretary's former PA. Straw's colleagues offered some imaginative gifts: Mo Mowlam sent a jigsaw puzzle of herself



Fitzgerald: royal guest

with a goodwill message and Denis Skinner sent a CD containing the history of the Levellers, the socialist movement. The Home Secretary sent a messy PR photograph: "There wasn't even a 'best wishes' added. What would Janet have got if she hadn't been his best friend?"

● **DON WALES-CAMPBELL**, the grandson of Sir Malcolm Campbell, is turning out to be an unworthy inheritor of the speedster's mantle. His grandfather won world land-speed records in his famed Bluebird car, and his dashing uncle died on *Coniston Water* while attempting similar feats on water in 1937. Young Don, on the other hand, is today trying to set a land speed for an "electric vehicle". The wannabe speed merchant will be gracing *Elvington airfield* in York where he hopes to reach 215 mph. How families decline: Sir Malcolm topped 300mph in 1935.

Grate party

HER Majesty threw caution to the wind at her "Cool Britannia" party in St George's Hall at Windsor Castle the other night. Not only did she invite 650 strangers, including Joanna Lumley, Zoé Wanamaker and Tara Fitzgerald, into her treasure house, but she let them light up in the vast room that burnt down during her *annus horribilis*. "There were ashtrays strategically placed all around the hall," recalled one party-goer. How brave after spending £37 million to restore the charred building.

Why is Wodehouse so funny?

Anthony Quinton breaks the code of the Woosters

Anthony Burgess once observed that the humour of Wodehouse's books does not ask for close analysis. It may, nevertheless, be of some interest to look into the manner of working of Wodehouse's humour. There is a distinctive and consistent moral outlook behind his writing, not merely "delightful nonsense".

A number of the best of his jokes are metaphorical connections of men and animals. For instance, a girl says to Wooster, "You're a pig, Bertie," and receives the reply, "A pig maybe - but a shrewd, level-headed pig." At one level this is enjoyable because of the absurdity of ascribing level-headedness, which implies that his condition has been achieved despite the temptations of flightiness, to a creature as sedate, predictable and unenterprising as a pig.

But there is a further aspect. The comparison invites us to feel rather more fellowship with the pig than is customary. Something that is ordinarily seen as compensating for its unpleasant appearance and manner of life by supplying us with ham, sausages and the better sort of subtext is suddenly represented as having its own point of view.

The same latent moral content is also present in an example which might seem at first to be a sheer flight of fancy. George Mulliner reports that when he was running from a crowd of rustics led by a man with a pitchfork, "the distinctly saw a rabbit shoot an envious glance at him as he passed and shrug its shoulders hopelessly". This serves as an implied reproof to the philosopher Descartes and his followers, who suppose animals to be automata and their cries of pain to be no more than the squeaking of an unrolled door.

This quality of point is not universal. There are pure jokes, as remotely abstracted from the general human condition as anything in Mallarmé. For example: "A certain liveliness was beginning to manifest itself up that gallery. The raspberry was not actually present, but he seemed to hear the beating of his wings."

But some gentle moral point is conveyed by many of Wodehouse's comparisons within the human domain. This example I have not been able to track down in his works. It may not even be his, but is unquestionably in his manner. It concerns a stockbroker. "His conduct in the City was calculated to cause raised eyebrows on the fo'c'sle of a pirate sloop." As well as the pleasure we feel at the vertiginous breadth of the comparison, there is the thought that pirates, for all their faults, are members of the human race.

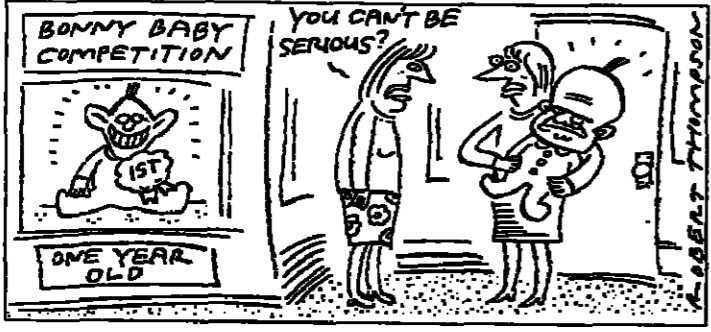
It could be argued that in practice Wodehouse was too trusting and uncritically forgiving. If he had been less genial and indulgent he would never have been involved in the broadcasts from Germany that caused him so much trouble. But his general message is always apoplectic even if, like other good things, it can be carried to excess.

In his *Notes on the Comic W.H. Auden* says, "Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator, but among those whom I love, I can: all of them make me laugh." Much humour depends on making men look like fools. A special excellence of Wodehouse is that, over and above his purely literary excellence, he makes fools and knaves look like men.

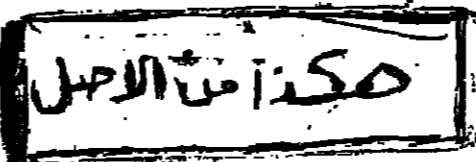
This is an edited extract from Lord Quinton's new book, *From Wodehouse to Wittgenstein* (Carcanet).



NIGEL MANSELL is to provide tips to the two parliamentary teams competing for the checkered flag at Donington Park on Monday. The erstwhile Formula One world champion will be advising the six lords and six MPs about achieving pole position and cornering without mishaps. Both teams will be leaving the grid to speed round ten laps in souped-up Vauxhall Vectras capable of speeds of up to 140mph. Gary Lineker is expected to be on the hand in the pit stop to help change the odd tyre. Despite the contestants' honourable pedigree, the race will provide an opportunity to settle old scores. Peter Hain, the Welsh Office minister and a competitor (pictured), says: "If justice is to prevail, MPs should beat those who are only in the race because their grandfather's grandfather was the mistress of Charles II." I can disclose, however, that the Lords have a secret weapon: Lord Astor, a spectator, is bringing Camilla, his delightful daughter and a model, as cheerleader. Lord Strathcarron, the 74-year-old team leader from the Lords, dismissed the lower chamber's challenge: "Pride comes before a fall," he says. "One is hopeful of victory." Lets hope the race does not become too rough.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

THE GREAT GAMBLE

Europe defies the laws of economics for political ends

On May 2, 1998, in an atmosphere of euphoria in Brussels, European Union governments formally declared that the euro would be launched the following January with 11 founder members...

Society revealed in Mary Bell furore

From Rabbi Dr Sidney Brichot Sir, I am appalled by the, dare I say, un-Christian response to the financial involvement of Mary Bell in the publication of Cries Unheard...

Mending rift over breaking of bread

From the Bishop of Rochester Sir, Ruth Cleghill, in her report today, "Break bread with us, Carey tells Catholics", does not mention the Church of England's understanding that it is both catholic and reformed...

Homework but no play questioned

From Mr D. L. B. Harley Sir, Mr David Blunkett (report, April 22; letter, April 27) said that he did not want to spread misery among the nation's children with his homework guidelines...

Neary dispute and cathedral music

From Mr Stephen Levinson Sir, As solicitor to Dr and Mrs Neary I write in response to the letter from Canon Harvey and others, published on April 28...

Waste of time

From Mr Tim Burden Sir, Mr J. W. Geddes of Dundonald (letter, April 29) is puzzled by his local authority's questionnaire on its use of a wheeled bin...

Marathon winners

From Mr Jim Moyes and Mr Iain Smith Sir, Having completed the London Marathon last weekend we hailed a taxi cab to our hotel...

The euro's launch coincides with a return to growth in most EU countries. But this has had almost no impact on the euro states of the highest in living memory...

FRONT PAGE AND FRONT LINE

Where war can reach right to the journalist's desk

The death sentence passed on six Nigerians, convicted after a closed trial of plotting a coup last November against the military Government of General Sani Abacha...

From His Honour Derek Clarkson, QC Sir, The headlines in your later editions yesterday, "Daughter, 14, finds out who Mary Bell is" and "Mother and child moved to safety"...

Status of South Downs

From Mr Roger Bush Sir, Sir Chris Bonington and others (letter, April 22), writing in advance of last week's decision by the Countryside Commission to reject National Park status for the South Downs...

Bring up Bappie

The disposable nappies meet the disposable incomes

Children cannot be bear. But if the little dears at the next table are throwing things, tantrums or up, the urge to take a grissino and whack them around the ears may be strong...

Weekend Money letters

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046

From Mr Peter Sergeant Sir, Please cut out this correspondence (letters, April 17, 21, 25, 29).

Paper clips

From Mrs Nicholas Banks Sir, And now, what does one call a person whose letter generates lots more letters to The Times?

BBC1 TV schedule listing various programs and their broadcast times, including The Simpsons, Friends, and other popular shows.



COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE May 1: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Parachute Regiment, this morning received Lieutenant Colonel Julian James upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel Paul Gibson upon assuming the appointment.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE April 30: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Logistics Corps, this morning visited the 71 Logistic Support Regiment and opened their Barracks, Kinross, Belfast.

Residential Home, Kings Road, Belfast, and was received by her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the County Borough of Belfast (Colonel Elliott Wilson).

Birthdays

TODAY: Dr Robert Anderson, director, British Museum, 54; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barracrough, 80; Professor N.K. Baxter, Vice-Chancellor, University of Herfordshire, 58; the Right Rev Bruce Cameron, Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, 57; Mr Andrew Cohen, former chairman, Benterware, 45; Sir Hugh Cortazzi, former diplomat, 73; Dr I.P. Evans, Headmaster, Bedford School, 50; Mr Alastair Forbes, writer, 80; Mr Peter Foster, Emeritus Surveyor of the Fabric, Westminster Abbey, 79; Mr Jon Foulkes, chairman, Halifax Building Society, 66; Sir Campbell Fraser, former chairman, Scottish Television, 75; Sir James Hamilton, aviation expert, 75; Dr Patrick Hillery, former President of the Republic of Ireland, 75; Professor Sir Robert Honeycombe, FRSE, metallurgist, 77; Mr Clive Jenkins, trade unionist, 72; Professor Michael Kaser, former director, Institute of Russian, Soviet and East European Studies, Oxford, 72; Mr Brian Lara, cricketer, 29; Dr Malcolm Lipkin, composer, 66; Mrs Elaine Mackay, ballerina, 55; Dr Chris Masters, former chief executive, Christian Salvesen, 51; Mr John Neville, actor, 73; Lord Sisoce, QC, 68; Dame Nancy Snagge, former director, CRAF, 92; Mr David Smith, actor, 52; Mr Alan Titchmarsh, horticulturalist and broadcaster, 49; Mr Jimmy White, snooker player, 36; Lord Woolf, 65.

TOMORROW: Mr James Brown, soul singer, 65; Miss Pat Chapman, former Editor, News of the World, 50; Mrs Kathy Cook, athlete, 38; Mr Henry Cooper, boxer, 64; Sir Graham Day, former chairman, British Aerospace, 65; Mr Ben Elton, author and comedian, 40; Mr George F. Hooper, FAI, former FAI executive, 53; Professor Ruth Lister, former director, Child Poverty Action Group, 49; Colonel Sir Michael McCorkell, Lord-Lieutenant of County Londonderry, 73; Miss Sandra McKean, chief executive, Consumers' Association, 50; Sir Christopher MacRae, former diplomat, 61; Mr Randle Manwaring, poet, 36; Viscount St Vincent, 93; Baroness Scoble, 68; Dr Norbert Singer, former Vice-Chancellor, Greenwich University, 67; Mr Norman Thewell, illustrator and cartoonist, 75; Miss Sandi Toksvig, comedian and writer, 40; Mr Allan Wells, athlete, 46; Sir William Wells, regional chairman, South Thames NHS Executive, 38.

Late wills Gladys Mand Plant, of Rustington, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,741,447 net. Josephine Rickard, of Clifton, Bristol, left estate valued at £281,955 net.

Ronald Stuart Rowlands, of East Saldern, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,012,262 net. Michael John Sanderson, of Slade Hooton, Loughton-en-le-Morthen, Sheffield, left estate valued at £1,223,681 net.

Huddersfield, left estate valued at £7,681,384 net. Thomas Stockdale, of Prostown, Cumbria, left estate valued at £1,313,202 net.

Peter Dickinson, of Fourstones, Northumberland, left estate valued at £1,668,768 net. Mary Housley, of Retford, Nottinghamshire, left estate valued at £3,777,954 net.

Jeffrey Milton Paterson, of Poole, left estate valued at £1,630,315 net. He left £50,000 to St Joseph's Hospice, London E8, and to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Memorial service

His Honour Peter Faulks A memorial service for His Honour Peter Faulks was held on Thursday at the Temple Church, London EC4. Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of the Temple, officiated. His Honour Judge Edmund Faulks, nephew, read the lesson and Mr Edward Faulks, QC, son, also gave a reading. Mr Sebastian Faulks, son, gave an address. Among others present were: Mrs Faulks (widow), Mrs Gerald Lee (sister), Mrs Sebastian Faulks and Mrs Edward Faulks (daughters-in-law), Holly, William and Leo Faulks (grandchildren), Mrs Edmond Faulks, Miss Nicola Faulks, Mr Sam Faulks, Mr Nigel Faulks, Mr Ambrose Faulks, Mrs Caroline Faulks.

Mr Justice Kirkwood, His Honour George Worthington, His Honour Christopher Oddie, Judge Richard Cole, His Honour Ian and Mrs McLean, Judge Durrant, His Honour Kerry Quarren Evans, Mr Edward Garauer, QC, MP, Mr Crawford Lindsay, QC, Mr Nicholas Browne, QC, Mr Adrian Redgrave, QC, Mr Nigel Wilkinson, QC, Mr Jonathan Harvie, QC, Mr Timothy Saloman, QC, Mr Roger Davies.

Major-General Donald Isles, Brigadier Dick Mundell, Mr Fred Huskisson, Mr Michael Goodman-Smith, Mr Alistair Paterson, Mr and Mrs Trevor Liddell, Mrs Gillian Jones-Parry, Mr Charles Nevill, Mr and Mrs Richard Carr, Mr Harry Boggs-Roife.

Mr D H Barton (representing West Berkshire Bench), Judge Iain (representing the Judges of Reading Crown Court), His Honour John A Baker (representing Kingston Crown Court), representatives of No 1 Sergeants Inn and No 4 King's Bench Walk, and many other members of the family, friends and former colleagues.

Service dinner

7th Parachute Regiment RHA The annual reunion dinner of the 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and Airborne Gunnery was held last night at Larkhill. Major-General C.G. Cornock, Honorary Regimental Colonel, was the principal guest.

The Middlesex Regiment (DCO)

The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) will hold its Annual Remembrance Service in the Regimental Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral, at 3pm on Saturday, May 9, to remember all Die Hards who have made the supreme sacrifice.

Latest wills

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Jonathan Cumming, of Dunfermline, Fife, and Aranzazu Peña Rada, of Madrid, who have recently announced their engagement, seen in their flat in London

Meissen collection of refugee from Nazis may fetch £500,000

BY JOHN SHAW A MEISSEN porcelain collection that belonged to a man who arrived in Britain with only £50 in his pocket may be sold for more than £500,000. Herbert Wolfe, a refugee from Nazi Germany, became a successful businessman in Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, and helped to create the Darlington Railway Museum. Mr Wolfe, who died in 1979, was born Helmut Wolfe in Berlin in 1913. He was 17 when Hitler came to power and after reading Mein Kampf realised that there was little future for a Jew in Germany. He fled to England with only £50 in Deutschmarks and obtained a job paying 10s (50p) a week. But within four years he became office manager and was able to bring his brother, father and fiancée out of Germany.

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY: 1817: William Camden, antiquary and historian, London, 1551; Alessandro Scarlatti, composer, Palermo, 1660; Catherine II, the Great, Empress of Russia, 1762-96; Szczecin, Poland, 1720; Robert Hall, Baptist minister, Armsbury, Leicestershire, 1764; Jerome K. Jerome, novelist and dramatist, Walsley, 1859; Manfred von Richthofen (the Red Baron), German air fighter, Schwidnitz, 1892; Henry Hall, band leader, London, 1898; Bing Crosby, singer, Washington, 1904; Paul M. King of Iraq, 1939-2004 Baghdad, 1925.

Luncheon International Women's Forum Ms Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security and Minister for Women, was the guest speaker at a luncheon at the Park Lane Hotel yesterday for the Global Spring conference of the International Women's Forum. Ms Jan Shaw welcomed the guests.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. Barnes-Murphy and Miss S.J. Mosley The engagement is announced between Scott, son of Major and Mrs M.A. Barnes-Murphy, of Dordogne, France, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.T. Mosley, of Harrow, Middlesex.

Church news Appointments The Rev Michael Bever, Priest-in-Charge, Odiham (Winchester), will be also Chaplain, Mothers' Union (same diocese).

BILLIE JEAN KING ADMITS TO PAST LESBIAN AFFAIR

Los Angeles, May 1. - Billie Jean King, the tennis player, admitted at a press conference that she had a lesbian affair with a woman who is now suing her for lifetime support. "I did have an affair with Marilyn Barnett. It's been over for some time."

ON THIS DAY May 2, 1981

The tennis champion's revelation was greeted with sympathy in Britain, where she was a favourite of the crowds for many years. To answer any questions of a personal nature, Miss Barnett, who is 33 and paraplegic, filed her suit under the California Supreme Court's Marvin case decision, which allowed payment of support in unmarried relationships. But there has never been a case which reached trial involving a homosexual or lesbian relationship.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS ADAMS - On Sunday April 26th, to Jacqueline Gledhill and John Adams, a son, William Michael.

DEATHS BISHOP - On April 29th 1998, peacefully at Woodfield Court, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, aged 77 years, Mrs Elizabeth Bishop, beloved wife of the late Paul, and mother of three children.

BIRTHS GREENHALGH - On April 22nd, to Hil and Bruce, a daughter, Charlotte Josephine Nicola.

DEATHS CANNON - Bedford Duffin (Captain DUFFIN) on April 29th 1998, peacefully at home, Bedford, Bedfordshire, beloved husband of Joan, much loved father and grandfather.

BIRTHS GREEN - On Tuesday 28th April 1998, at 11.00 am, to the wife of Mr and Mrs John Green, a son, James John Green.

DEATHS GILBERT - On Tuesday 28th April 1998, peacefully at home, aged 74 years, Mrs Margaret Gilbert, beloved wife of the late William Gilbert, and mother of four children.

DEATHS HANCOCK - On Tuesday 28th April 1998, peacefully at home, aged 74 years, Mrs Margaret Hancock, beloved wife of the late William Hancock, and mother of four children.

Advertisement for Personal Column services, including birth announcements, death notices, and memorial services. Includes contact information for BMDS and TRADE.

Equities race ahead again

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, and DISTRIBUTORS.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, and SUPPORT SERVICES.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, and DISTRIBUTORS.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, and DISTRIBUTORS.

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Large vertical advertisement for Capital Raquires X, featuring a 'HOT SEAT' graphic and text about a business opportunity.

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BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY MAY 2 1998

HOT SEAT 28

Charm offensive of tank commander under fire

Waigel warns against attack on euro

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

CURRENCY speculators will get nothing more than a bloody nose if they attempt to attack the euro conversion rates that will be set today, Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister, has warned.

His comments came as sterling fell sharply to its lowest level for two months against the German mark as the Euro summit got under way. It closed at DM2.9644, down 3.72 pence.

European leaders meet today in Brussels and will decide on the exchange rates that will be used to convert national currencies to the euro when it is formed by an expected 11 European countries on January 1. Herr Waigel said: "Everyone who speculates against it will get a bloody nose. Every speculator will experience just one thing - enormous losses."

Last year, European finance ministers decided to name bilateral conversion rates to ward off speculation in the run-up to the start of the single currency. Central banks made it plain that they would defend the bilateral parities in what amounts to a *de facto* economic and monetary union eight months before the actual start.

As of December, the central banks of the 11 countries expected to form the euro had foreign exchange reserves between them of some £180 billion, a considerable war chest to employ against speculative attacks.

Despite Herr Waigel's warning shot, there is little anticipation of an assault on the conversion rates which are expected to be set at current central parities within the exchange rate mechanism. Apart from the Republic of Ireland, all the prospective member currencies are trading within 0.5 per cent of these parities.

Commentary, page 27

Music publisher buys key shareholder for £33m

Boosey arranges deal to keep independence

By JON ASHWORTH

BOOSEY & HAWKES, Britain's oldest music publisher, has won its fight to remain independent. The company is buying its American majority shareholder for \$55 million (£33 million) in cash and the issue of new shares, ending months of uncertainty.

Discord has been ringing out at Boosey & Hawkes since April 1997, when Carl Fischer, the New York music publisher which has a 38.4 per cent stake in the company, put itself up for sale. The move raised the prospect of a hostile bid for Boosey, prompting music lovers to give warning of "irremediable damage" to Britain's musical heritage.

Boosey & Hawkes is the world's leading publisher of 20th-century classical music, with copyrights on composers such as Rachmaninov, Richard Strauss and Stravinsky. Its instrument-making arm is third behind Yamaha of Japan and Steinway-Seimel of America. The company was founded in the 1760s as a London sheet-music business.

Potential bidders were said to include EMI, the music group which is itself under siege. In an ingenious solution, Boosey has itself raised the money to buy Carl Fischer, and with it, the troublesome stake. A number of unnamed institutions are funding the deal, and will hold shares in the enlarged Boosey. This will spell an end to the lack of liquidity that has plagued the company, and give rise to wild swings in the share price.

The outcome is a coup for Richard Holland, the Boosey chief executive and deputy chairman, who has struggled to maintain the independence of the 230-year-old company. He said he was delighted by the outcome, which not only ensured Boosey's independence, but achieved his long-term ambition of widening the shareholder base. Mr Holland said: "It's been arduous, but very worthwhile. We have had the support of a very wide constituency."

Representatives of the estates of leading British compo-

sers, including Britten, Elgar, Holst and Delius, expressed collective support for Boosey in a letter to *The Times* in July last year. The loss of the company's independence, they said, threatened far-reaching consequences for those involved in serious and educational music, affecting generations of British composers, performers and audiences.

Supporters include Andrew Dismore, MP for Hendon, North London, who last year tabled an early day motion expressing his concern at the possibility of a Boosey takeover. He said the deal would remove job uncertainties, and ensure that the works of established and developing British composers remain in UK ownership.

Mr Dismore said: "Thousands of young musicians in schools and orchestras from all over the country rely on Boosey & Hawkes for instruments and their introduction to the world of music. They, too, should be pleased that the future of this great British company is now guaranteed."

The deal was announced after close of trade in London yesterday. Shares in Boosey closed unchanged on the day at 775p. Under the deal, shareholders will be offered a one-for-one share exchange in a new holding company, Boosey & Hawkes Group. There is a cash alternative of 500p per Boosey share, and 103p for each Boosey cumulative preference share.

Boosey shareholders will be invited to subscribe for up to 981,022 new ordinary shares at 500p per share. This represents 5 per cent of the issued share capital. A prospectus is due to be published on May 18. Pending court approval for a scheme of arrangement, the restructuring should take effect from June 16.

Boosey made a pre-tax profit of £7.1 million (£7.7 million) in the year to December 31. Costs relating to the Carl Fischer sale came to nearly £1 million. Boosey is advised by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and Slaughter & May.



Richard Holland orchestrated the support of many people to widen the shareholder base

Demon founder nets £34m from sale

By CHRIS AYRES

CLIFF STANFORD, the entrepreneur who founded Demon Internet in 1992 with £20,000 start-up capital, yesterday received a £34 million windfall by selling his 51 per cent stake in the company to Scottish Telecom.

The ScottishPower division paid a total of £66 million for Demon, which is the UK's largest Internet service provider. Mr Stanford, a former accountant whose motto is "greed is good" originally launched Demon from the boiler room of a cinema in Finchley, North London.

Yesterday's deal came in spite of Demon receiving a higher offer from another company - whose identity has not been revealed. Demon said that no firm offer had been made by British Telecom, although talks had been held. Mr Stanford, 44, said: "I wanted to keep it British, and I knew Scottish Telecom would look after the staff. Many of Demon's 520 staff will receive windfalls from share options. He added that he would leave the business entirely, and would announce a new venture in London next week.

Apart from Mr Stanford, Demon's other shareholders included Giles Todd, the company's co-founder, who held a 13 per cent stake. The rest was owned by venture capitalists, including Apax Partners. Last year Demon had a turnover of £19 million and incurred a loss of £2 million, mainly because of a £5 million investment programme. This year the company is expected to make £1 million profit on £31 million sales.

Rod Matthews, chief executive of Scottish Telecom, said he would put about £14 million into the business over the coming year.

The acquisition of Demon by Scottish Telecom takes its investment since it was launched in 1994 to £150 million plus £90 million on acquisitions. Mr Matthews added that he did not expect any jobs to be lost. He went on to say that there was "some logic" to a merger from ScottishPower, but that there were no immediate plans.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6010.3 (+82.0)
Yield	2.72%
FTSE All share	2822.77 (+33.78)
Nikkei	16601.10 (-40.16)
New York	
Dow Jones	9103.48 (+40.11)
S&P Composite	1115.10 (+3.35)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	10 3/4% (10 3/4%)
Yield	5.94% (5.94%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	7 1/4% (7 1/4%)
12-month bill	10 1/8% (10 1/8%)

STERLING

New York	
\$	1.8678* (1.8719)
London	
DM	1.6670 (1.6710)
FF	2.9842 (3.0004)
FF	8.8288 (10.0820)
SFr	2.4850 (2.5075)
Yen	221.66 (220.92)
£ Index	105.3 (106.3)

DOLLAR

London	
DM	1.7775* (1.7957)
FF	3.5890* (3.6195)
SFr	1.4877* (1.5013)
Yen	132.95* (132.95)
£ Index	109.5 (109.5)

TOKYO SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul)	\$15.30 (\$14.70)
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GOLD

London close	\$305.75 (\$308.86)
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* denotes midday trading price

Industrial firms face recession

Manufacturing is beginning to slide into recession, according to a new survey published yesterday. Export orders slumped and domestic output faltered in the face of a rising tide of imports, according to the purchasing managers' index. The data will provide further ammunition for the inflation doves who believe that the Bank of England should signal that interest rates have peaked. Page 26

Unilever up

Shares of Unilever rose sharply after the ice cream to detergent company said it had overcome problems in both the US and the Far East to return record first-quarter results. Its shares shot from 637p to touch 662p - the sharpest rise in 14 months - as the company returned a 56 per cent rise in underlying profits to £754 million. Page 27. Tempus, page 29.

Capital Radio acquires Xfm

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

CAPITAL RADIO, thwarted in its attempt to take over Virgin Radio, yesterday announced the acquisition of Xfm, the London alternative rock station.

Terms of the agreement value Xfm, which only began broadcasting to London about eight months ago, at £15.9 million. Capital is acquiring a 90 per cent interest and assuming debts of £1.9 million.

Chris Parry, founder of Xfm, retains a 9.9 per cent interest that Capital has the right to buy before March 2001 at a price no greater than £209 million. Mr Parry said: "This is an opportunity to really put Xfm in the strongest possible position."

Xfm was founded five years

ago and was turned down twice for a London licence but kept itself alive with broadcasting special events until it finally won an FM licence.

It was a fierce opponent of Capital's proposed takeover of Virgin last year. The Monopolies & Mergers Commission ruled against the deal just after Richard Branson sold out to Chris Evans and his Ginger Productions.

Capital is still trying to get the MMC report overturned because it fears it could limit its future expansion.

Xfm targets 15 to 34-year-olds. The plan is for Xfm to move into the Capital headquarters in Leicester Square and for Mr Parry to remain a director of the station.

Virgin plans course for Caribbean

By JASON NISSE

VIRGIN ATLANTIC, Richard Branson's airline, is planning to open new routes to the Caribbean later this year, according to senior sources in the region.

The airline could switch some Boeing 747 jets off its Far East routes to run a service initially to Barbados, Trinidad and St Lucia and, next year, to Antigua.

A Virgin spokesman said: "We have not got anything in place yet." But indications from the Caribbean, though, are that this may be a formality. "We operate an open-skies policy," said Lester Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.

Antigua uproar, page 28

Flextech chief on sick leave

By CHRIS AYRES

ROGER LUARD, chief executive of Flextech, is on sick leave and may be absent for several months, it was announced yesterday.

Mr Luard, who is afflicted by a serious eye illness, has been offered a financial package valued at £3.5 million if he is unable to return to work by the end of December.

However, Flextech said it hoped Mr Luard, 49, would return to work by the end of the year. However, it added that he would leave if he had not recovered by December 31 and had "no reasonable prospect of doing so".

Shares in Flextech fell 16 1/2 p to 476p yesterday, compared with a high of 802 1/2 p last year. Adam Singer, chairman of

Flextech, said: "If activated, the payment would replace all entitlement to payment under Roger's existing share options and long-term incentive plan."

Mr Singer said that no one else would replace him while he was away from work. "There is absolutely no need to, that is an issue for a few months down the line."

Mr Luard was paid £370,000 last year. Mr Luard is credited with transforming Flextech from an oil services business to a television company since the 1980s.

However, in spite of Flextech's capitalisation of about £70 million, the company has yet to make a profit from continuing activities.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

Battles raged across the City this week. EMI, the music group, itself under siege, and Volkswagen continued to slug it out over Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. Markets wobbled, and the row over British Biotech fizzed on. More promisingly, Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson, was named Venne Cluport Business Woman of the Year.

Energy Group, the electricity and coal company owned by Eastern Electricity, looked set to fall to a £4.5 billion bid from Texas Utilities when PacificCorp withdrew after a year of protracted negotiations. The move followed the intervention of the Takeover Panel, which gave the rivals until 4pm yesterday to submit their final offers.

The bid approach for EMI sent the shares soaring and left fingers pointing at Seagram, the Canadian drinks and entertainment conglomerate. Seagram held unsuccessful talks with EMI last year on a possible merger involving its Universal Music subsidiary. Other prospective bidders are thought to include Walt Disney, the US entertainment group, and Kirk Kirkorian, the US corporate raider who controls the MGM/UA.

Hambros, which recently sold its merchant banking operations to Societe Generale, accepted a £428 million bid approach from Investec, the fast-growing South African financial services group. Investec recently paid £95 million for Guinness Mahon, another UK merchant bank. British Aerospace said it was paying £269 million for a 35 per cent stake in Saab, the Swedish military aircraft maker.

General Accident and Royal Bank of Scotland were fined £800,000 over their role as trustees to two funds linked to Peter Young, the former Morgan Grenfell fund manager. Morgan Grenfell, owned by Deutsche Bank, was last year fined £2 million in connection with the affair. Starbucks, the American coffee bar chain, acquired Seattle Coffee Company for £50 million. The deal nets about £13 million for Ally and Scott Svenson, the co-founders. Martin Sorrell, chief executive of WPP, the world's largest marketing services group, looked set to collect shares worth £4.5 million under a long-term incentive plan.

The Millennium PC Bug will hit small and medium-sized businesses hard.

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Tony Blair, Prime Minister.

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Industrial firms slide towards recession

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

BRITISH manufacturing is beginning to slide into recession, a new survey published yesterday shows. Overall manufacturing activity declined for the first time in more than two years as export orders slumped and domestic output faltered in the face of a rising tide of imports, according to the purchasing managers' index.

The figures come after separate data earlier this week revealed that the global trade deficit in February had ballooned to its widest level in seven years and export confidence had touched an 18-year low. The latest data will provide further ammunition for the inflation doves who believe that the Bank of England should signal interest that rates have peaked at its next

Monetary Policy Committee meeting next week. However, separate consumer credit figures also published yesterday showed net borrowing rising £1.43 billion in March — the largest increase since records began in 1993. Analysts said the credit figures left open the possibility that consumer spending could still climb higher and maintained some uncertainty about the outlook for rates.

The purchasing managers' composite index fell from 52 to 49.5 in April, indicating a contraction in activity, and its lowest reading since May 1996. The main cause of the fall was another decline in export demand, as manufacturers struggle to deal with the strong pound, with just 13 per cent of companies reporting an increase in order books. However, evidence that cheaper imports are also starting to hurt domestic activity came from the manufacturing output index which pointed to negligible growth while there was also a fall in new order books.

The weak level of activity has, however, helped to check inflationary pressures. Delivery lead times showed only a marginal increase while the prices index slipped and employment levels declined for a second successive month.

Peter Thomson, director-general of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, said: "The slowing trend has now continued into a contraction. The prospects for the future are not good."

Credit card spending provided the main boost to the consumer spending figures, reaching £388 million, compared with £224 million in February. Mortgage lending, however, was weaker, with net lending falling from £1.96 billion to £1.8 billion. Analysts said the strength in the gross lending figures, which increased 8 per cent to £6.56 billion, was largely because of remortgaging rather than new business.



Paris Moayed, front, with Terry Simpson, who will make a paper gain of £6.7 million

Streamline directors to share £10m gain

By Adam Jones

TWO directors of Streamline, the road services and building products group formed in a buyout from Shell in 1993, are to share about £10 million under a £188 million recommended offer from Jarvis, the facilities management and construction company.

The offer, a mix of cash and Jarvis shares, will mean a paper gain of up to £6.7 million for Terry Simpson, the Streamline chief executive, and up to £3.2 million for Ernest Burton, the finance director, at current market levels.

Jarvis shares have almost trebled in value since last August. They rose a further 2 1/2 p to 685p yesterday after the bid was announced, adding about £3.4 million to the original offer of £184.5 million.

Jarvis has major contracts to maintain rail lines for Railtrack, particularly in the North of England and Scotland.

The Streamline deal will enable it to expand into road servicing, while giving it an international presence to use in building up the rail business overseas, said Paris Moayed, the Jarvis chief executive.

Jarvis has undertakings to accept the offer representing 50.4 per cent of Streamline's share capital. Shareholders can opt for a 285p a share cash alternative. Streamline shares rose 27 1/2 p to 297 1/2 p yesterday.

Tempus, page 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Microsoft defended by PC manufacturers

AMERICA'S major computer manufacturers have mounted a surprise defence of Microsoft against Government threats to delay the release of Windows 98 over antitrust worries. Compaq, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Dell and others have sent a strongly worded letter to the Justice Department warning that a move against Microsoft could endanger hundreds of thousands of jobs in America and overseas. Microsoft's Windows software is used in 90 per cent of personal computers and a delay of new software could stall growth in the \$160 billion-a-year industry.

On Thursday, 13 US states announced they were preparing their own lawsuits against Microsoft with the aim of stopping the release of Windows 98. Analysts have long seen the Windows 98 release as Microsoft's Achilles' heel because the software house needs the new stream of revenues. Computers fitted with Windows 98 are expected to be in the shops in late June. The Justice Department has been involved in a court battle with Microsoft over antitrust concerns since December. The computer makers said in their letter: "While we do not express an opinion on the merits of any investigation, we urge you not to take any action that might block the release."

Insolvencies edge ahead

THE number of company insolvencies edged up in the first quarter of 1998 but was still down against the same period a year ago. There were 3,142 company insolvencies in England and Wales in the first quarter on a seasonally adjusted basis, said the Department of Trade and Industry. This was a 0.3 per cent rise on the previous quarter, and a fall of 1.2 per cent on the same period a year ago. There were also 5,731 individual insolvencies in England and Wales in the same period, down 1.7 per cent on the previous quarter and 8.3 per cent on a year ago.

ICI achieves target

ICI, which has implemented a radical restructuring of its businesses, said it had achieved its £3 billion disposal target two years ahead of schedule with the completion of the sale of its explosives activities in the Americas and Europe to Orica, of Australia, for about £221 million. ICI said there is almost £1 billion of disposals still in the pipeline, and sales of non-core assets expected by 1999. The latest sale is of its international explosives operations in Canada, Latin America, Europe and a distribution business in the US.

Dalgety £50m sale

DALGETY is to sell its agricultural supply business to a management buy-out team for £50 million. In the year to June 30, 1997, Dalgety Agriculture incurred an operating loss before exceptional items of £200,000. The buy-out team led by Paul Kirk and Tony Taylor, chairman and managing director of Dalgety Agriculture, backed by NatWest Acquisition Finance and KPMG Corporate Finance. Dalgety's remaining business is PIC International, the leading pig-breeding and genetic improvement business.

Meggitt appointment

MEGGITT, the engineering group, has appointed Sir Donald Spiers, the former head of aerospace procurement for the UK Armed Forces, as its non-executive chairman, filling the vacancy left by the death of Ken Coates earlier this year. Sir Donald joined the Meggitt board in 1995 and is the engineer's longest-serving non-executive director. He was Controller Aircraft at the Ministry of Defence from 1989 to 1994 and is also a former president of the Royal Aeronautical Society. The appointment is with immediate effect.

Tarmac to build campus

TARMAC, the construction company, is to build a campus for the University of East London in Docklands, costing £32 million. It will cater for 3,000 students, with academic departments in a four-storey building, in the Dockland Business Park. The design-and-build contract brings the amount of work won by the London region of Tarmac Building to more than £80 million this year, including a £13.4 million contract for 92 flats at Butler's Wharf, overlooking the River Thames near Tower Bridge.

Expro in £14.8m deal

EXPRO INTERNATIONAL GROUP, the oil services company, is buying Tronic, a supplier of instrumentation and power systems connectors used in subsea wellhead and downhole applications in the oil and gas industry, for £14.8 million. The deal will be funded by a £15 million share placing, with new shares offered at 495p each. Existing shares rose 3 1/2 p to 535p yesterday. Expro said financial results for the year to March 31, due to be published next month, would be in line with City expectations, and it expects to recommend a 6.1p final dividend.

CRH buys MA Segale

CRH, the building materials company based in the Republic of Ireland, has acquired MA Segale Inc. of America, for \$60 million (£36 million). The transaction took place through Oldcastle, CRH's American subsidiary. Segale, a family business based in Tukula, near Seattle, Washington, is involved in integrated aggregates, asphalt, paving and construction businesses serving the southern Seattle market. CRH said. The acquisition strengthens Oldcastle's position as a leading materials supplier in the Pacific northwest.

Goode Durrant splits

GOODE DURRANT, the commercial vehicle hire company, is selling its specialist-equipment hire company to a management buy-out team for £25.8 million. The buy-out is led by Dudley Thomas, a former finance director of the company, and supported by Barclays Private Equity. Proceeds of the sale include £9.3 million of borrowings to be assumed by the purchaser. In the year to the end of April the business earned pre-tax profits of £2.07 million on sales of £13 million.

Securities Institute seeks SETS reform

By Martin Waller

THE Securities Institute, the examining body for the securities and derivatives industry, has added its voice to the calls for changes to SETS, the Stock Exchange's new order-driven share trading system.

Although the institute has drawn back from the criticism that has been hurled at SETS by unhappy fund managers and other City firms, its submission to the Stock Exchange says that traders are proving unwilling to commit large trades to the system

when they do not know the identity of the other party in any transaction because of the risk of default.

The institute is calling for the establishment of a central counterparty, a body such as the Stock Exchange itself or some other clearing house, through which all deals should be channelled and by which they would be guaranteed. This option had previously been raised by the Stock Exchange, but then dismissed as being too expensive.

Cliveden attracts bid from US suitor

By Dominic Walsh

CLIVEDEN, the stately pile at the centre of the notorious Profumo affair, is the latest luxury hotel name to attract the attention of the growing band of American investment groups targeting the UK.

Hard on the heels of Blackstone Group's £520 million acquisition of the Savoy Group, *The Times* understands that the directors of Cliveden are in advanced negotiations over a sale after receiving an unsolicited approach. Sources believe that

an announcement could be made early next week.

Cliveden, which came to the stock market two years ago, has grown from the eponymous country house hotel in Buckinghamshire to include the Cliveden Town House in London and the Royal Crescent in Bath. It also recently announced plans to develop a five-star hotel in Edinburgh.

Persistent takeover rumours have helped to lift Cliveden shares from a low of 48p in December to 79p yesterday.

BA 'in talks to open its own bank'

By Marianne Curphey

BRITISH AIRWAYS is believed to be in talks with a number of financial services companies with a view to setting up an international banking operation.

The airline already offers credit and charge cards and is understood to be interested in exploiting its global brand to attract high net worth customers.

BA yesterday refused to comment on reports that the service could be launched this year. However, observers believe it has been encouraged by the success of Virgin Direct, Sainsbury, Tesco and British Gas in the field of financial services.

BA set up its consumer financial services division two years ago, which prompted speculation that it was planning to sell personal equity plans, life insurance, and pensions. None of these have so far been launched.

Selling deposit accounts and investment products on the back of a trusted brand has been one of the great marketing successes of recent years. Standard Life has taken £410 million in cash since opening its own bank in January. It now has 53,000 customers.

Weekend Money, page 60

Northern Rock could lose licence

By Susan Emmett

NORTHERN ROCK could have its lending licence revoked as a result of the savings fiasco that last week left hundreds of savers worse off.

Professor Roy Goode QC, who headed the Pension Law Review Committee, said the former building society could be forced to stop lending under the Consumer Credit Act if the Office of Fair Trading finds the bank's conduct has been "deceitful or oppressive or improper".

In restructuring its account range, Northern Rock moved about 200,000 savers to accounts paying lower rates. Many were not notified.

Professor Goode, a saver with Northern Rock, said: "The Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading has tremendous power to deal with abuses of this kind."

The OFT agreed that Northern Rock's conduct could be challenged under section 25 of the Act and said they were looking into the issue.

Adam Applegarth, executive director of the Northern Rock, said: "Given our move to transparent operating procedures, such allegations seem illogical."

Weekend Money, page 60

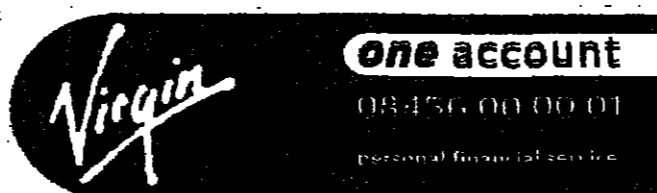
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PizzaExpress to test out the taste of pasta

By Dominic Walsh

PIZZAEXPRESS, the fast-growing chain of restaurants, is to launch a second restaurant concept called Pasta di Milano.

The group is developing two sites in Soho and Crouch End, North London, where it will pilot the idea before embarking on a national roll-out. The combined cost of the two sites is £900,000.

David Page, the chairman of PizzaExpress, said that the company would give the restaurants six months before deciding upon further expansion. "We are going to try a couple of branches and we will see how they go," he said.

Although it is the company's first venture into pasta restaurants, the Milano name is already used in the Republic of Ireland, for its two pizza restaurants. Also, in France, the company uses Pizza Milano in preference to PizzaExpress.

Given PizzaExpress's rapid expansion of the past few years — it recently opened its 163rd outlet in the British Isles — developing a second concept makes perfect sense. It puts back the prospect of market saturation and allows the company to take up sites it would otherwise have to turn down.

TOURIST RATES		
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.55	2.47
Austria Sch	21.02	20.24
Belgium Fr	64.42	59.46
Canada Cdn	3.98	3.84
Cyprus Cyp	0.315	0.304
Denmark Kr	11.82	11.03
Finland Mk	5.97	5.67
France Fr	16.44	15.66
Germany Dm	3.13	2.89
Greece Dr	142	133
Hong Kong \$	12.71	12.51
India Rs	1.11	1.11
Ireland P	1.22	1.14
Italy Lit	6.53	5.98
Japan Yen	317	297
Malta M	226.60	210.07
Netherlands Gld	0.884	0.820
New Zealand \$	3.53	3.240
Norway Kr	3.15	2.91
Portugal Esc	12.95	12.22
Spain Ptas	316.87	294.84
Switzerland Fr	8.10	8.14
Sweden Kr	263.81	244.52
Switzerland Fr	2.64	2.52
Turkey Lira	420212	400324
USA \$	1.769	1.628

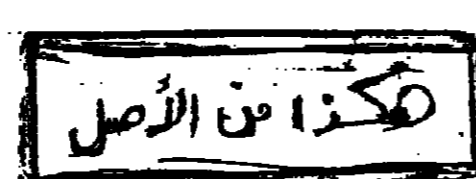
Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

BIOTECH BUST-UP

Most weekends Keith McCullagh, the founder and chief executive of British Biotech, can be found off Cowes sailing his yacht, Blue Jeans. His shareholders probably now think it should be renamed the Titanic...

Business, The Sunday Times, tomorrow



RAC deal may not get Green Flag

Before the champagne corks are popped and the tax advisers called up by the Royal Automobile Club's 12,065 members, it must be pointed out that Cendant's purchase of RAC Motoring Services is far from a done deal.

Having just coughed up £780 million for NPC — owners of the RAC's rivals Green Flag — Cendant clearly sees the chance to create an operation that can compete with the AA on equal terms (the Fifth emergency service, perhaps). And suggestions that the rollercoaster ride since it admitted accounting irregularities last month, might mean the group did not have the resources to buy both NPC and RAC, have now been shown to be utter rubbish. Coming up with £650 million of cash is small beer for a £13 billion corporation. Also synergies with RAC than anyone else, it is unlikely that any of the seven serious bidders who were in talks with the RAC would be likely to top the offer — especially as three of them were venture capitalists and the other four were either motor insurers, a famously stingy group, or car

dealers, few of whom have the pockets for a bid battle.

Yet there is a rather big problem in the shape of John Bridgeman — the Director-General of Fair Trading. As the deal involves assets of more than £30 million and creates a business with a market share of more than 25 per cent — however you care to measure it — this falls within his ambit. And Mr Bridgeman does like to interfere.

There are 20 million people using roadside assistance — but only a fifth of those pay for it themselves, the rest getting it free with new cars, insurance policies or from their employers. The AA has nearly 50 per cent of either market, RAC is second place, Green Flag third and other rivals, such as Europe Assistance and Britannia, lagging far behind. Combining RAC and Green Flag creates a group only slightly smaller than the AA. Mr Bridgeman may think that this cosy duopoly, rather than giving

the AA a good run for its money, will cut competition and push up prices. A referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission could easily take the fizz out of the RAC's members' Moët.

ERM... sterling's worth a punt

The fun is over. The game is up. Welcome to Dullsville. Currency traders must have been weeping into their lagers in bars around the City last night in anticipation of today's announcement in Brussels of the euro conversion rates for the single currency. Although exchange rates are

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

not being irrevocably fixed until the formal start of economic and monetary union on January 1, it is very clear that the rates announced today will form the basis of the value of the euro and that European central banks will stake everything they have to prevent currency traders from introducing some nasty bumps to the smooth glide path to EMU.

It seems unlikely that speculators will bother to turn up for the fight, simply because the odds are stacked overwhelmingly against them. For one thing, the reserves of the 11 countries likely to be announced today total £180 billion, twice the firepower that China has at its disposal.

For another, great care will be taken to make the conversion rates credible. The odds are on rates being set at current central ERM parities. With 10 out of 11 of the euro ins trading within 0.5 per cent of these and the exception, the Irish punt, within 1 per cent, there is little for currency speculators to play with.

The very fact that the 11 currencies are so near their central parities, and have been for some considerable time, shows that the boys in braces have accepted that the glory days of 1992, when they spectacularly nobbled the pound and the lira and gave the franc a run for its money, are over.

But wait a minute. Sterling.

There's a thought. Plenty of fun still to be had. Currency traders marched the pound up to exorbitating levels as a safe haven from the uncertainties of the euro. Some of those uncertainties are set to disappear this weekend so why not march the pound back down again? Get in another round of lagers, and let the good times roll.

Riders to avoid a storm

Would that the directors of British Biotech had had the foresight to have hired the lawyers who have advised Texas Utilities on its purchase of The Energy Group. The full glory of yesterday's statement from Texas is worth repeating with the comments by Erle Nye, chairman, that: "The acquisition is expected to be earnings and cash-flow enhancing" given the caveat "the above

statement in relation to earnings should not be interpreted to mean that future earnings per share of Texas Utilities as enlarged by the acquisition of The Energy Group will necessarily be greater."

So take British Biotech's two infamous announcements of May 12, 1997, only a few weeks after the group was told that regulators had "major objections" to the pancreatic drug Zucutex. In one Keith McCullagh, chief executive, said: "Further appointments are planned in preparation for a potential launch of Zucutex in Europe." And in the other Peter Lewis, the former director of research and development, said: "Following the submission of the European MAA [marketing application] in February, we are setting up the European marketing and sales structure in anticipation of the launch of Zucutex in Europe."

These, of course, should have come with the rider: "These statements in relation to the marketing of Zucutex should not be interpreted to mean that there is any sensible chance that the compound will gain regulatory approval or be in any position to be marketed at all."

Unilever price soars as profit hits record in first quarter

SHARES of Unilever rose to a new high yesterday after the ice cream to detergent company said it had overcome problems in both the US and the Far East to return record first-quarter results.

Its shares shot from 637p to touch 662p — the sharpest rise in 14 months — as the company returned a 56 per cent rise in underlying profits to £754 million for the first three months of 1998. They closed at 666p.

City analysts said the company now has £10 billion of firepower, and is under pressure to make a large acquisition soon. Niall FitzGerald, chairman, said that if it failed to find a suitable target within the next three years, it would look at a share buyback.

The Anglo-Dutch company gave all figures at constant exchange rates. It said that, in sterling, the profits rise would have been 44 per cent, and 60 per cent in guilders.

City analysts have now upgraded profit forecasts by £100 million, and most are now expecting Unilever's underlying profits to break through to £3 billion by the year end.

Tempus, page 29

Littlechild agrees to step down as electricity watchdog


Professor Littlechild is prepared to leave his post before the end of his contract — which expires in August 1999 — so that his move coincides with the departure of Clare Spottiswoode, the gas watchdog. Ms Spottiswoode's five-year term of office comes to a close in October this year. A spokesman for the DTI said that

Professor Littlechild was likely to receive an ex-gratia payment in lieu of the fact that he is willing to leave his £100,000-a-year job early, and that he has agreed to be both flexible and helpful in the transition.

The Government wants to amalgamate the two posts because it sees increasing competition in both sectors. One of the key functions of both regulator was to mimic competition which was rare to non-existent in the early years of privatisation.

Advertisements are running this weekend seeking a replacement for Ms Spottiswoode at Ofgas, but potential applicants are being told that the post will turn into more

powerful Energy Regulator. The post carries a salary of £120,000 and applicants are required to show "strong intellectual and analytical skills," and to have "an open participatory approach to decision making." It continues: "You will be an excellent communicator of unquestioned integrity."



BAT INDUSTRIES

Financial services profit up 16%, with tobacco ahead by 7%

Three months unaudited results to 31 March 1998		
OPERATING PROFIT	£659m	+10%
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£573m	-2%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	10.7p	-4%

- Trading profit from financial services rose by 16 per cent to £298 million, with excellent results from almost all parts of the business. Non-life profit was 22 per cent higher at £167 million and life profit grew by 9 per cent to £131 million.
- Tobacco trading profit at £369 million was 7 per cent higher and Group cigarette volumes rose 2 per cent. There were good performances from the Latin America, Europe and Americas regions, partly offset by America-Pacific and Asia-Pacific.
- The pre-tax profit comparison was affected by the absence of last year's £46 million gain on disposal of a business, together with a higher interest charge and adverse currency movements.
- Much progress has been made in preparing the Listing Particulars for Allied Zurich and British American Tobacco and the Board remains firmly convinced that the proposals will prove very beneficial for shareholders.

The full quarterly report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, BAT Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

Bid talks confirmed by HIS

By MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

FISHERS International, the loss adjuster, and Royal & Sun Alliance, the composite insurer, are believed to be among the suitors lining up to buy Hambro Insurance Services (HIS).

HIS confirmed yesterday that it was in bid talks "with a number of interested parties". HIS shares rose 16p to 124½p valuing the company at £81 million.

The statement was issued in the wake of Thursday's agreed £428 million bid for Hambros plc, HIS's 52 per cent controlling shareholder, by investor of South Africa.

Other potential candidates to buy HIS are Independent Insurance and Ellis & Buckle, part of the Rutland Trust.

Shares in RSA rose 29½p to 697½p and Independent Insurance grew 15p to 1622p.

The HIS price is close to the revised offer of 128.7p a share. Analysts said the top price HIS could hope to achieve would be 150p per share.

Tempus, page 29

Gieves returns to profit

By KATHY LIPARI

GIEVES GROUP, the Savile Row tailor, returned to profit in the year to January 31 after a strong performance from its UK operations. The group reported a pre-tax profit of £625,000 after exceptional loss, up from a £1.3 million loss.

The UK retail division recorded a healthy 9.2 per cent improvement in like-for-like sales. An extensive refurbishment of the company's Lime Street store resulted in a 21 per cent improvement in like for like sales in the six months after its reopening.

Turnover rose 5.5 per cent to £21 million, in the year. There were earnings per share of 1.8p, up from a loss per share of 5.7p. The final dividend remains 0.75p, cutting the total payout to 1.15p, from 1.5p. Gieves shares rose 1p to 37p.

Tom Scruby, chairman, said that earnings from Japan had been hit by turmoil in South-East Asia, but a pick-up in Far Eastern markets had partly compensated for the decline.

Newcastle United to lose finance director

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

NEWCASTLE UNITED, the beleaguered Premier League football club, suffered another blow yesterday when the finance director of its parent company resigned.

Jo Dixon, 39, who joined Newcastle United Plc in 1995, said she was leaving the group at the end of June to pursue other interests. Her resignation follows the recent controversy surrounding comments by two board directors.

Douglas Hall, the chairman, and Freddie Shepherd, the vice-chairman, resigned after pressure from fans over allegations that they insulted Newcastle women fans and the players. The company said her departure was not connected and her leaving was "purely amicable".

Two new directors have been appointed to fill the vacancies. They are John Fender and Tom Fenton. Shares rose 1½p to 92½p yesterday.

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Malaysian visionary courting controversy in the Caribbean

Jason Nissé visits Antigua to discover an island in uproar over leisure concept

Many entrepreneurs dream of building business empires larger than small nations. For Dato' Tan Kay Hock that dream is close to reality. The Malaysian businessman will this week see work starting on his \$600 million (£360 million) Asian Village hotels, casinos and leisure project on the north coast of Antigua.

The sheer scale of the scheme is dominating the small Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda. Dato' Tan plans to build six hotels — ranging from a four star to a so-called "six star", boasting 2,250 rooms — two golf courses (the Royal Barbudan), a casino, a retail village, a conference centre and a water theme park largely on Cuisana Island, a 600-acre patch of scrubland separated from the Antigua coast by a 75-yard-wide waterway. The investment is worth twice the country's gross national product and potentially doubles Antigua's stock of hotel rooms.

However, the Asian Village has run into a storm of controversy which has delayed and often threatened to derail the project. There have been accusations of cheap land deals and lack of concern for conservation, worries about the number of Malaysian workers being brought in, legal actions and even shootings. And as was abundantly clear at the groundbreaking ceremony a week ago, presided over by Lester Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Asian Village is now the dominant issue in the general election due later this year.

Mr Bird's barnstorming speech crowned a surreal ceremony attended by about 3,000 people — nearly 5 per cent of



An artist's impression of Asian Village, seen as a way to put Antigua's tourism industry on a par with Barbados

the country's population — with supporters punctuating his oration with shouts of "long live Lester Bird" and "good words". But the groundbreaking should have taken place a year ago. It was put on hold while the developers and Bird's Government were sued first by Taffy Bufton, an eccentric Welshman who lived on Guiana Island feeding his colony of deer and whistling ducks, and then by Baldwin Spencer, leader of the opposition United Progressive Party. Both actions claimed the Government had exceeded its powers by compulsorily purchasing the land and then selling it to Dato' Tan and his Kuala Lumpur-listed Johan Holdings for just \$5 million. They failed, though Spencer's case was taken to the East Caribbean Supreme Court in St Lucia and virtually bankrupted the UPP. Bufton was so aggrieved that he stormed into the office of his solicitor and shot him.

The solicitor just happened to be Vernon Bird Jr, younger brother of the Prime Minister.

Bufton is on bail, charged with attempted murder, but such are the sensitivities of the case that the Government is paying \$2,000 a month to rent him a luxury house.

The story of Asian Village goes back three years to when Dato' Tan came up with the concept. A lawyer, called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, he started his business career converting a house in Willerden Green into flats. Thirty years later he controls a financial, motoring and construction empire based on Johan, but including the UK-listed car dealer William Jacks.

Johan has recently moved into leisure with a yacht club and a hotel in Malaysia, and Dato' Tan thought that an Asian-themed complex would

attract American tourists too lazy to travel to the Far East. He was tempted to Antigua by Derek Hugh, an engineer from Loughton in Essex, who is the country's economic envoy, who arranged for Lester Bird to take Dato' Tan on a helicopter tour of the island to review sites.

"We tried to encourage him to put it on the mainland," Bird told *The Times*. "But he said the island location was what would make the place unique." The development was approved despite concerns raised from conservationists about the deer sanctuary — which has now been relocated to Barbados — and the mangroves, which were heavily damaged by hurricanes two years ago. Lester Bird argues that it is essential



Dato' Tan: powerful

to kick-start the Antigua tourism industry, which is responsible for 65 per cent of the country's GDP but has suffered from underinvestment over recent years.

"The plant is becoming a little old and we were losing market share, particularly from the US," said Mr Bird. He and many in the Antigua hotels industry see Asian Village as a rapid way of expanding and upgrading the tourism industry to put it on a par with Barbados.

But it is not so simple. The project is a giant step for Johan, which has assets of only \$76 million. It is investing \$40 million in the first stage alone, with Dato' Tan's family providing another \$40 million and banks the rest. They will also have to build a power plant and may need a desalination project to provide Asian Village's water needs.

The project will also bring in hundreds of Malaysian workers. How many is a matter of heated debate, but the figure of 2,000 has been mentioned. If true, that number could

Cold comfort

THIS morning, as you ponder which sweater will be warm enough, spare a thought for Alison Streeter, who in her sadder moments trades forward rupiahs and rands for Standard Chartered. She also swims, the further and the colder the better, and holds the record for the Channel with 36 crossings. Streeter will be jumping into Dover harbour, oh, probably as you read this if you tend towards a late Saturday breakfast.

"We've always had an understanding among cold water swimmers that the first weekend in May is the first time we put our bodies through hell," the Queen of the Channel tells me. This entails a ten-minute dip, about the longest the body can stand, an hour-and-a-half to warm up again, and then repeat the procedure. It hardly bears thinking about. Still, tomorrow she flies to Bali, for a conference on the rupiah. The thought of which is keeping her going.

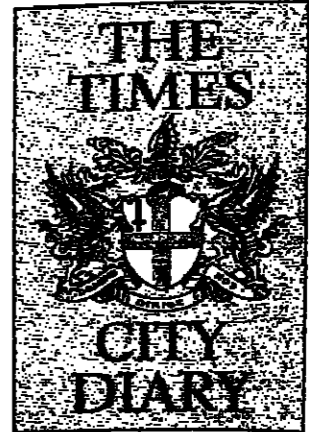
AS MY contribution to the first anniversary of the Glorious Revolution, I pass on to you a new buzzword from the spin-doctors at New Labour. Harriet Harman used it yesterday at the International Women's Forum, an event from which I was inexplicably barred, to describe the Government's attempts to make us all take out pensions. Financial citizenship. There. You heard it from me first, and by golly, you will be hearing it again.

Medical bill

AS IF to prove the Citicorp/Travelers Group merger is determined to be the biggest in just about everything, it has just brought forth the biggest donation ever to any US university. Sandy Weill, the Travelers chief executive, has given



MARTIN WALLER



\$100 million to Cornell, his alma mater in upstate New York. The cheque will knock a huge hole in his earnings as he took home just \$230 million last year, poor lamb. In return Cornell will name his medical school after him and his wife Joan.

RECALLING the old joke about the boss's son who worked his way from the bottom of the company to the top and said it was the most exhausting week of his life, a hoarding announcement comes in from Amstrad. Simon Sugar is the new commercial director. Eldest son of Alan, as fate would have it, and aged about 30, with nine years' experience at the company. I am asked not to be too hard on the Sugar brood, who I am assured work almost as hard as their dad, so I merely pass on the fact that brother Daniel is employed by Tottenham Hotspur, prop A Sugar, and sister Louise works for the family property firm.

Tunnel of love

THE house where Nell Gwynn used to entertain Charles II is being auctioned this month. Healey & Baker is selling the 1640 property in Windsor, along with two adjoining buildings, and reckons they could be worth as much as £750,000. Nell Gwynn's home is now predictably, Nell Gwynn's gift shop and tearooms, with the usual Donegal sweaters, Tower of London tea towels and the other heritage industry flotsam. I assume. But it features a tunnel leading to the castle. Now blocked off, paparazzi please note, but I dare say it could be unsealed. Or perhaps HRH could put in a competing bid?

MARTIN WALLER

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

ADVENTURES FROM £5



Times readers can save up to 50 per cent or more on a wide range of adventure activities until July 31, 1998. They are all featured in our Wild Spirits supplement (free with last Saturday's Times).

● Book your visit in advance by telephone with one of the centres listed in the supplement and attach four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* to the coupon which will appear again on Tuesday.

● Each completed coupon entitles you to any offer featured, either as an individual, a family or with friends. Our offer prices are followed by the normal cost in brackets.

● A total of 13 tokens and five coupons will be printed in *The Times* until Saturday May 9, enabling you to try as many as three different activities if you wish.

SCUBA DIVING
British Sub Aqua Club. Tel: 0500 947202. Learn to scuba dive at one of 500 branches nationwide. Offer: from £12.50 (£25). First 500 to register and take their Scuba Experience will receive a FREE BSAC Spear Diver Manual (£13). PADI International Ltd. Bristol. Tel: 017-971 1717. Text 17 for booking and details of your nearest centre. More than 80 UK centres. Two-for-one offer: Discover Scuba pool and theory sessions of around one-and-a-half hours £20-£50. Book on above number and send tokens and coupon direct to your chosen centre. Dof-Fin Divers, Achill Island, Co Mayo. Tel: 00353 98 45473. Family offer: includes discover scuba/try a dive, snorkel trip, pier jumping, island tour plus packed lunch, hot showers and changing rooms. £50 for family of four, two adults and two children. (£100). Also adults £20 each (£40).

SAILING/RIVER KAYAK/WINDSURFING
Hamble School of Yachting. Tel: 01703 452 668. Offer: sailing weekend with tuition, including onboard accommodation and food for just £78.50 per person (£157). Valid August to October only. Great Adventures, Graham Water Centre, Huntingdon. Tel: 01480 810521. Residential weekend includes windsurfing and dinghy sailing. Offer: £70 per adult, child free (£12). Spirit of Adventure. Tel: 01822 880277. Kayak weekend on the River Wye May 22-25. Offer: £83.50 including camping and food (£167). Outward Bound Trust, Cambridgeshire. Tel: 0990 134227. Offer: surf and sail weekend, residential, all-inclusive £62.50 (£125). Aquasports, Redhill, Surrey. Tel: 01737 644288. Dinghy sailing/windsurfing. Offer: two-hour taster session £12.50 (£25). Monday or Friday evenings 5.30-7.30pm.

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THE TIMES ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES
TOKEN 7

TOMORROW: WINDSURFING AND WET BIKING

CHANGING TIMES

Tank commander under fire replies with charm offensive

During the seemingly endless auction of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, there can have been few hotter seats than that occupied by Sir Colin Chandler, the chairman of Vickers.

It was nothing to do with the pressure of BMW and Volkswagen battling it out for the luxury carmaker, mind — the sweltering warmth was simply a product of a faulty central heating mechanism in his office.

Key meetings must have resembled scenes from the film *Twelve Angry Men*, in which Henry Fonda leads a sweating, stinking mass of jurors through trial deliberations at the height of a filthy New York summer. Press briefings with Sir Colin were stifflingly uncomfortable even with imported fans running at full tilt, it was an executive sauna.

In spite of the distraction of the wacky thermostat, the rampant spin-doctoring from both BMW and Volkswagen, and the patriotic howls of his own shareholders, Sir Colin has managed to retain an easy-going public style during the Rolls sale.

Those who expected a bloodbath at the annual meeting earlier this week would have been disappointed. Yes, there were impassioned complaints from shareholders who were devastated at the thought of Rolls-Royce leaving British hands, but the interjections from the floor were nothing less than polite and were even a little deferential at times.

This may have had something to do with the intimidating architecture of the London Arena meeting hall. Directors peered down from an uplift platform, themselves dwarfed by flying-V logos and dark fabric hangings. The overall effect was suggestive of a Mosleyite rally on the set of *Star Trek*.

The deference certainly had something to do with Sir Colin's public charm. Professor Donald Longmore, one of the Rolls-Royce enthusiasts who have spent months preparing the way for a British bid, decried the sale of Rolls as a "tragedy for UK plc" and



Sir Colin Chandler, the Vickers chief selling Rolls-Royce

then went out of his way to congratulate Sir Colin for his handling of the gathering.

Throughout the meeting, Sir Colin's responses were leavened with conciliatory "Yes, sirs" and "No, sirs", and a spot of forelock-tugging before Britain's industrial heritage. It was nothing less than his genteel audience demanded.

Their patience is, though, perhaps a little more than Sir Colin's record at Vickers deserves. A Bermondsey boy who began his engineering career as an apprentice at De Havilland, he was promoted to the post of chief executive in June 1992, having become managing director in 1990.

He had joined Vickers in 1989 after a spell in Whitehall.

For four years, Sir Colin has head of defence export services at the Ministry of Defence. Before that, he worked for British Aerospace and Hawker Siddeley and was involved in lucrative arms export negotiations with Saudi Arabia.

When Sir Colin took the helm at Vickers, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars had dragged the group into a £12.4 million loss for 1991.

Amid the recession, its sales had dipped from 3,200 cars in 1990 to 1,500 the following year.

The Vickers share price continued to fall after Sir Colin's arrival, falling worse than shares in other engineers as they dropped from a level of about 150p before troughing at

less than 70p. The shares have recovered in the intervening years, but have still significantly underperformed the FTSE 350 engineering index.

The medical businesses have been sold. Rolls is going too, of course, leaving Vickers as a ragbag collection of businesses, ranging from the uninspiring Cosworth high-performance engines to Kamewa marine propulsion, which is in much better shape.

The tanks division was snubbed recently in a huge contract for a "battlefield taxi" for European forces. Sir Colin's claim that it was a stitch-up by Germany in favour of its own companies has angered GKN, part of the winning bid, which points out that it will have a half-share of its Anglo-German consortium.

Yet Sir Colin's defence background makes it hard to imagine Vickers pulling out of armoured vehicles, however tough the running.

Fast displays of loyalty in this field have come home to roost. With Sir James Blyth, a former head of defence sales at the MoD and now Lord Blyth of Rowington, Sir Colin sprang to the side of Jonathan Aitken when *The Guardian* made allegations about his business links with the Arab world in 1995. In a letter to *The Times*, Sir Colin and Lord Blyth praised Mr Aitken's contribution to "the interests of the UK and its industry".

There are signs that Vickers is shedding some of the baggage and grandeur accumulated in its long history. The head office, high in Millbank Tower and offering a vertiginous view from Sir Colin's office, is being moved to a more humble site. This strategic retreat — that is all it is at the moment — is being carried out under immense pressure, first from the threatened bid by Mayflower and now by the manoeuvrings of Volkswagen in the sale of Rolls-Royce.

Sir Colin boasted at the annual meeting of the ability of a British tank to take big hits and keep on functioning. He and his company have absorbed quite a pounding so far. The shells are still falling.

ADAM JONES

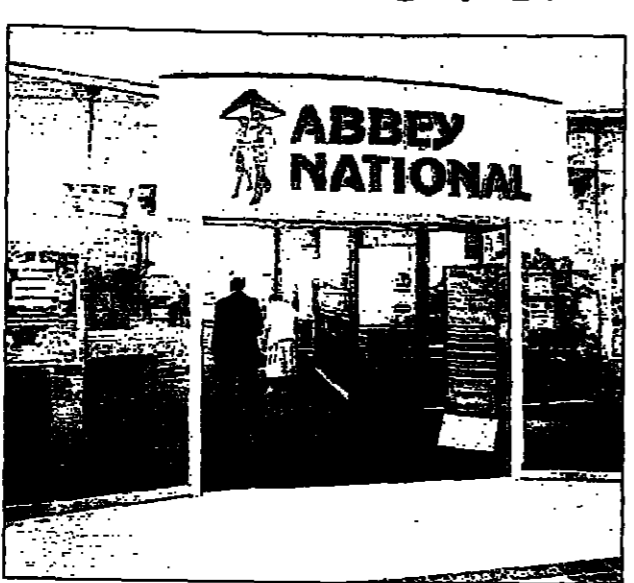
CV: SIR COLIN CHANDLER
Born: October 7, 1939.
Education: Left school at 16.
Career: Hawker Siddeley and British Aerospace, then Head of Defence Export Services at the MoD. Joined Vickers 1989, chief executive the following year.
1992. Chairman from 1997.
Paul Buisson just made successor as chief executive.

مكتبة من الأصل

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Interest rate hopes send shares back over 6,000

SHARE prices climbed back above the 6,000 level as they extended this week's rally in the belief that domestic interest rates had peaked and that a rise in US interest rates has been put on hold.



Abbey fell 8p after Warburg cut its forecast for the bank

With more than 6 million shares changing hands as the price raced up 6p to 326p, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and Merrill Lynch have been recommending the shares to clients this week and yesterday HSBC James Capel decided to join the party.

Economic news from both sides of the Atlantic proved favourable with both the British and US purchasing managers surveys showing a surprise drop. Market bulls said it provided further hard evidence that inflation was under control.

It also provided London with the excuse to extend the gains of the past three days. In thin trading the FTSE 100 index closed 82.0 up at 6,010.3. It stretches the lead on the week to 146.4.

Speculative buying of Shield Diagnostics, up 7 1/2p at 635p, has overshadowed rival Drew Scientific, up 2 1/2p at 92 1/2p.

put 35p on Software at 642 1/2p. Just 71,000 shares had changed hands by the close.

Streamline Holdings, 27 1/2p dearer at 297 1/2p, is the latest target for fast growing Jarvis, 21 1/2p higher at 685p.

A profits warning left Brunel Holdings nursing a fall of 2p at 91 1/2p. The engineer says business in the paper and tobacco industries had fallen short of expectations and would affect profits in the second half.

Roger Luard, chief executive of Flextech, down 14 1/2p at 476p, is on sick leave because of problems with his eyesight. He is unlikely to return before Christmas and may be offered a package of £3.5 million.

Shares of Chesterton International returned from suspension and promptly fell 8p to 28p after confirming earlier this week that bid talks with Sumit had been terminated.

EMU Group, the subject of a bid approach, fell 7 1/2p to 60p. The mystery seller is thought to be Seagram, the North American drinks group.

Table with 3 columns: Company Name, Current Price, and Weekly Change. Includes EMI Group, Seagrams, and various other stocks.

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MAJOR INDICES

Table showing major indices for New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, and London.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues for AB Airlines, ARM Holdings, Aberdeen, Advent 2 VCT, and others.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues for Avocet Mining, Precept, Guinness, Memory, Mon Oil, and Radsstone.

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Table listing recent issues for RISES, Character, Alliance, Sun Life, Rix, REKAM, Unilever, Orange, and others.

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TEMPUS Accentuate the positive

IT IS hard to over-estimate the importance of sentiment as a driving force behind share price movements. Positive sentiment is one of the fiercest winds that can blow with investors.

Ask shareholders in BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services company. BAT shares have underperformed relative to the stock market average by 15 per cent over the past year and by 35 per cent over the past five years.

Unilever is now, officially, a stock market darling. For a company with so many potential trouble spots, it seems to have effortlessly glided through the first quarter with volume sales up 5 per cent.

JARVIS shares were trading lower than 5p in 1994, the year new management arrived. The group was then a fatal combination of construction and property, maulled by the recession.

GIEVES GIEVES GROUP may have returned to the black in the year to January 31, but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

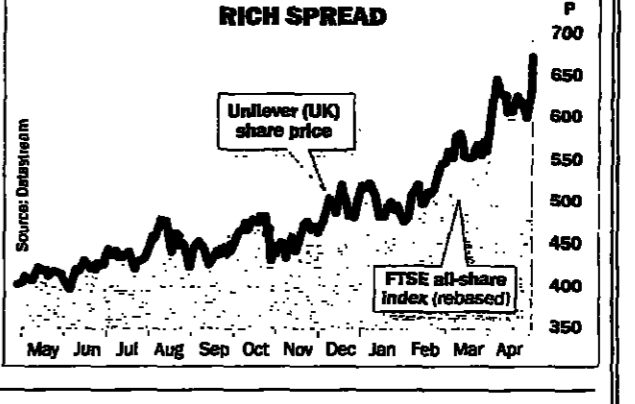
The City has basically washed its hands of the company and no forward earnings forecasts are available. Until some stronger earnings numbers are put forward it is probably best for investors to look elsewhere.

The danger with Unilever lies in its bank balance. Mr FitzGerald is under pressure to find something to spend it on, and with £10 billion of firepower he will be tempted to open pay.

Simon Gibbs, chief executive, is confident that now the troublesome Knickerbox division has been disposed of, the company will be free to make some steady progress.

However, the group's operations in the turmoil-plagued Asian region and exposure to the strength of sterling are of some concern.

The City has basically washed its hands of the company and no forward earnings forecasts are available.



RICH SPREAD. Unilever (HQ) share price and FTSE all-share index (rebased) from May to April.

Table with 3 columns: Company Name, Current Price, and Weekly Change. Includes EMI Group, Seagrams, and various other stocks.

EMU Group, the subject of a bid approach, fell 7 1/2p to 60p. The mystery seller is thought to be Seagram, the North American drinks group.

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Vertical sidebar containing various small advertisements and notices, including 'Ort', 'IEIES', 'TY ARY', 'r fire nsive', and 'BBC1'.

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

SEX EDUCATION

Clive Brittain and the 1,000 Guineas PAGE 41

DANNY BAKER

Arsenal and a deal with the devil PAGE 33

POCKET MONEY

Higgins sends O'Sullivan reeling PAGE 32

WEEKEND MONEY

WILL MARTIN AMIS KEEP HIS VALUE? PAGE 53

BENTLEY RETURN TO LE MANS

PAGE 45



THE TIMES

SATURDAY

SPORT

13 PAGES

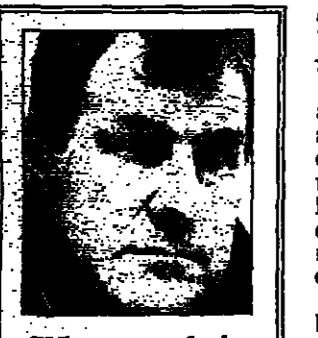
MAY 2 1998

BASSETT ENJOYS SUCCESS AS OTHERS WAIT AND WORRY

Banking on life in the big league

BY MATT DICKINSON

THE football season reaches its climax this weekend and the time has come for managers to sit and sweat. Bank managers, that is. For every calculator working out goal difference this week, another will be totting up the fortunes that have been won and lost. Relegation and promotion issues must be resolved and, in the modern world of football high finance, the stakes have never been higher.



When people in Manchester say it is the biggest game in City's history, I can't argue with them' Joe Royle talks about life on the brink, page 35

bonus of £1,000 for playing in the top division. While it may reduce many to their last BMW - a recent survey put the average Premiership player's salary at £193,000 - it will be small change to the potential losses to be suffered by Mark Goldberg, whose £30 million takeover at Selhurst Park is close to completion. What began as a hazardous investment has been transformed by relegation into a colossal gamble.

"Ultimately, we cannot afford to stay in the first division," Goldberg said. "The Premiership is where the money is and that's where a club like Palace has to be. We have got to get straight back up."

A brief glance at Barnsley's accounts supports Goldberg's assertion. If the Yorkshire club should return whence they came a year ago, they will head back to the first division enriched, not only by stirring memories, but also by wealth once beyond their dreams.

In the year that Barnsley have been in the Premiership, the club's turnover has more than trebled to an expected £115 million. Gate receipts have almost doubled to £35 million, but the bulk of the money has come from the armchair viewers of television.

While teams in the first division receive a basic £620,000 per season from BSkyB for satellite television rights, those in the top flight bank £2,970,833 - and that is just the start. Each Premiership club receives almost £250,000 - compared with the £40,000 in the Nationwide League - each time it appears live on one of the Sky Sports channels, with three guaranteed appearances. With more than £700,000 in shared sponsorships and £27,541 for every feature on Match of the Day, Barnsley earned almost £5 million just for being there.

To that one can add the prize-money. Barnsley received £25,000 for finishing second in the first division last season. For coming third from



Forest's lucrative promotion accounts for the smile on the face of Dave Basset, the manager. Photograph: David Burner

bottom in the Premiership, the Oakwell club will be richer to the tune of a little less than £480,000. And to that you can add a 30 per cent improvement in sponsorship and commercial activities that for a club such as Barnsley is worth hundreds of thousands of pounds; for a club such as Middlesbrough, it could mean millions.

John Dennis, the chairman of Barnsley, is quick to add a note of caution. "People talk about the Premiership being worth £8 million just for being there, but that is a little simplistic," he said. "You have to remember the increased costs, particularly wages, which in our case have doubled to £4.5 million a year. We haven't suddenly got some

great stockpile of cash but, as far as I am concerned, this has been the most exhilarating year of the club's life. "There are people in football who think we can turn the clock back 20 years and play off the same handicap and, as a traditionalist, I would love that to be the case. But we can't all sit around and wait for a Jack Walker.

For clubs disappearing from the elite, it is not all bust. They are protected to some extent by what is known as the Premiership parachute. The relegated teams receive half the initial share of the Sky money - in short, nearly £1.5 million. This grace period lasts for two years and offers some cushioning from the traumatic plunge of relegation. In Manchester City's case, clearly the parachute never opened.



Pressure points: Howard Kendall, above, Bryan Robson, below left, and Peter Reid show the strain as their teams tussle for a share of the Premiership riches



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A spoonful of sugar... a sackload of spite

Mr Banks looked out of the upstairs window of No 17 Cherry Tree Lane and sighed with pleasure. It was a lovely morning. The trees were in blossom. In the park, he could hear the Park Keeper calling "Observe the Rules. Remember the Bylaws". The Admiral and Miss Lark were chatting outside No 18 and pushing a perambulator through the park gates, with Jane and Michael skipping by her side. Miss Mary Poppins in her daisy hat. She was an upright figure, with a pink face, turned-up nose and bright blue eyes. In fact, it was quite true, she looked a lot like Alan Shearer.

"Keep up, step along please," Mary Poppins said as they entered the park. "And kindly do not tug on my sleeve, Michael. I am not a laundry chain."

"Observe the rules, remember the bylaws," the Park Keeper, raising his hat, said. The children wondered what their magical adventure they would have today and whether it would entail gratuitous violence. They had noticed how a certain amount of "argle-bargle" had started to invade their adventures of late. Mary Poppins was more than usually tense and button-lipped. Just last week, the Prime Minister had been bending over in the park

collecting flowers and Mary Poppins had whacked him smartly on the nose with her crown with her parrot umbrella, then helped him to his feet afterwards as if she'd had nothing whatever to do with it. "Will there be any argle-bargle today, please, Mary Poppins?" Michael said. "Are you accusing me, a well-brought-up person, of argle-bargle, Michael Banks?" Mary Poppins replied sharply. "And I'll thank you not to jump up and down in that fashion. Are you a boy or a wallaby in the zoo?" "But Mary Poppins, you

must admit you elbowed someone violently in the nose the other day," Jane said. "We heard the crunch. It's only because you're Mary Poppins and we love you, and we're so scared you'll leave us, that we didn't report you to the police."

Mary Poppins stiffened. "Excuse me," she said, "is this a pleasure garden, or the dungeons of the Spanish Inquisition?" "I don't suppose it was your form?" Michael asked. "Father says you've lost your form."

LYNNE TRUSS

Mary Poppins stopped wheeling the pram. The whole party slid to a halt on the gravel. "We understand why," Jane said. "It's because you lost something, didn't you? In the park. What was it you lost, Mary Poppins? Could we find it for you? Everything that's lost is somewhere."

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Table with columns: Destination, BT, FT, Savings. Includes rows for AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND, USA.

Vertical sidebar containing various small advertisements and notices, including BBC, TALKS, and other text.

SWIMMING

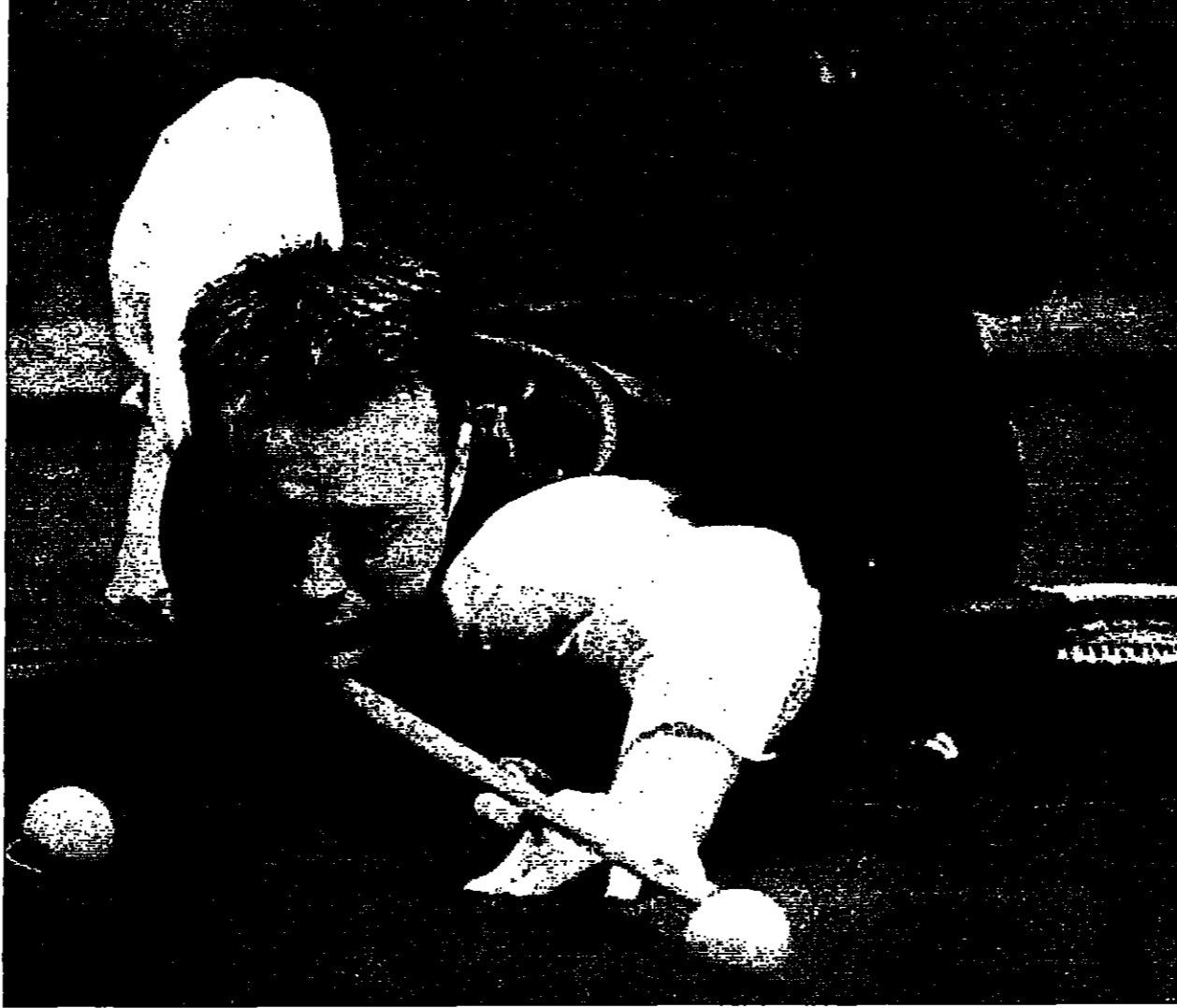
Smith free to compete while Fina takes stock

MICHELLE SMITH competed in a local event in Sarcelles, near Paris, yesterday after swimming chiefs decided to put off until next week a decision on whether to temporarily suspend her amid allegations that she tampered with a urine sample provided to drug testers at her home in Ireland in January.

SNOOKER: O'SULLIVAN FAILS TO RECOVER FROM EARLY BLOWS AND IS PUT FIRMLY IN THE SHADE

Higgins produces astonishing run

RARELY has the Crucible Theatre played host to such sustained excellence. In building a commanding 12-4 lead over Ronnie O'Sullivan in the semi-finals of the Embassy snooker championship yesterday, John Higgins was outstanding.



Flat out for success: Higgins takes aim during the scintillating spell that overwhelmed O'Sullivan yesterday

session to spare. Over the last four frames, Higgins outscored O'Sullivan 44-2. While not adding to his tally of seven century breaks in the championship, he still proved overwhelming with runs of 44, 53, 79, 97, 44 and 52.

final of the 1992 championship and Parrott forging 7-0 ahead of White in the climax to the 1991 event spring to mind as appropriate comparisons.

There was a certain piquancy to the manner in which Williams successfully wiped out a worrying 6-2 overnight deficit to draw level with

Doherty the title-holder, at 8-8 midway through their lower-key semi-final.

Doherty experienced similar frustration, however, when play resumed. Leading by 50 points with only 51 available in the ninth frame, Doherty was seemingly heading for 7-2. Williams eventually snatched it by potting a tricky black across the top cushion and, as the session progressed, it was an oft-repeated pattern.

On a promising 40 break in the fourteenth frame, he overcut a straightforward black off his spot. Then an even more glaring error directly cost Doherty the next. This time, he jawed a green and Williams, who included a fearless double on the pink during the resultant clearance, launched a 53 break in the sixteenth by fluking the initial red.

That was galling for the Dubliner, but nothing in comparison to the way in which, after being 8-5 ahead, he let slip the closing three frames of the morning.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Board set up to improve game

ICE HOCKEY: Moves were announced yesterday to improve relations between the British Ice Hockey Association and the Superleague, which it is hoped will lead to an overall improvement in standards at club and international level.

There also will be an advanced training and development programme for the British national teams. There is little continuity between the junior and senior teams, with too much emphasis on foreign-born players in the Great Britain world championship squad.

GOLF: Nick Faldo and Vijay Singh again laboured to disappointing scores at the Macau Open yesterday. Faldo, the former world No 1, scored a three-over-par 74. He was upstaged by Zang Liangwei, the playing partner and the second-round leader, who hit a 69 for an aggregate score of 141.

FOOTBALL: Everton go into their last match of the season away to Millwall. Linceses tomorrow as women's Premier League champions after their nearest challengers, Arsenal, were held to a 2-2 draw at home to Croydon on Thursday.

CYCLING: Jon Clay, the season's outstanding rider, won the opening stage of the four-day Travelwest Tour of Lancs for his Brits Team after a seven-man sprint at the finish of the 59.5-mile race at Uppermill yesterday. He is expected behind the overall leader, Kevin Dawson, the British time-trial champion, who had picked up time bonuses for intermediate sprints.

SQUASH: Peter Nicol, of Scotland, has extended his lead over Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, at the top of the men's world ranking list issued yesterday after becoming the first Briton for a quarter of a century to win the British Open title. Paul Johnson, of Kent, makes his first appearance in the top ten at No 9. Other Britons in the top ten are Alex Gough, of Wales, at No 6, Simon Parke, of Nottingham, at No 7, and Del Harris, of Colchester, at No 8.

MOTOR RACING

Open field keeps the interest high

PICKING a winner in the Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car series has felt like choosing the numbers for a lottery jackpot win. The championship this year is proving to be one of the most hotly-contested, with four different winners already.

fine-tuning is Nigel Mansell, who joins the Ford team next month. The former Formula One world champion is expected at Donington to watch a series that has produced some unlikely results. David Leslie has scored Nissan's first victory for five years, while Alain Menu, the champion last year, has just one win and has struggled behind Jason Plato, his Renault Williams team-mate, who heads the championship but has yet to win.

GOLF: SWEDEN MAKES IT THROUGH THE RAIN WITH OLAZABAL IN HOT PURSUIT

Sjoland justifies awesome billing

JOSE MARIA OLAZABAL said that Patrick Sjoland was "awesome" through a tournament-delayed first round of the Italian Open yesterday and he was Olazabal's not nearly so complimentary about his own golf.

short irons and hot putter in their hands. Olazabal has ruled everybody's lives here for the past 36 hours; it seemed as one time that the tournament might be sunk with all hands in the waters of nearby Lake Maggiore.

Westwood did not need a putter at all on his first hole, the 10th, chipping in from 40ft. He stumbled a touch in mid-round, but came off the ropes to birdie the 4th, eagle the 8th from 4ft and birdie the 9th. Lucky man that he could play so badly and score so well.

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Lytham attracts England caps

ONCE again, the Lytham and Berkshire Trophies, the first big 72-hole amateur stroke-play event of the year, clash this weekend and, once again, it is the Lytham that has attracted by far the stronger field.

shire Hog, are also in the field at Lytham, as is Justin Rose. Rose, who will be 18 in two months, won the McEvoy Trophy two weeks ago and then flew with Gary Wolstenholme, his England team-mate, to help Europe defeat Asia/Pacific in the inaugural Ryder Cup-style match held in Australia.

Wolstenholme is one of the few leading players to prefer to play at the Berkshire. Little wonder — he seems to win it more often than not. He is going for a third consecutive win, which would equal the number of victories achieved by his late father, Garry.

Table with columns for BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, BOXING, and FOOTBALL, listing various sports events and results.

Table with columns for GOLF, RUGBY LEAGUE, RUGBY UNION, and TABLE TENNIS, listing various sports events and results.

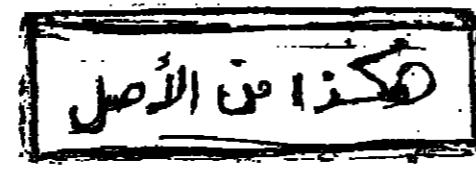
Table with columns for TENNIS and SHINTY, listing various sports events and results.

SHINTY

Defeated Oban seek to regain lost form

AFTER their stirring encounter with Kingussie in the prestigious Macaulay Cup final a fortnight ago, it seemed likely that Oban Camanachd would meet the same opponents at Mossfield Stadium on June 6 in the final of the Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup for the Scottish championship.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'Giving devil' and 'May the Fo' at the top, and 'Oliver given ch' and 'to confirm qu' further down. It includes a small image of a person's face.



سكرة من الاجل

Giving England devil of a chance

DANNY BAKER



Last week I touched upon the splendid hypocrisy of football supporters in hysterically damning Glenn Hoddle for leaning towards the Unknown in his World Cup preparations while being just about the most superstitious group of people on the planet. Many people, rather shamefully, even ridiculed the idea that God might be of any help at all during the tournament.

Well I sincerely hope He is because all this occultish kerfuffle has now brought to the surface the role played in football by, how should I put this, Our Lord's loyal opposition. Beezebub. Belial. The Fallen Angel. And also, as we shall see, Arsène Wenger's director of football. First things first.

There are at least a dozen practising Satanists who have, since England's qualification, been invoking the Lord of the Flies that he might watch over Our Boys every cloven-hoofed kick of the way. These people are not the jokey Goats' Head Soup, outboard laddish larkists that you might think. The Satanists I have spoken to are proper 365 days-a-year dark devotees, true believers, who are most keen to stress the overwhelming mundanity of their rites and rituals.

Even as you read this, they are likely to be in some candlelit room somewhere, on their knees before an inverted crucifix promising all kinds of devotions if only the Devil will fold his wings around the squad. I know, it is very unnerving, but you all laughed at Glenn and Eileen didn't you? Anyway, like it or not, as far as faith is concerned, England will go to France with very much a belt and braces philosophy on board.

Which brings me to a girl named Kate. Kate is an Arsenal supporter and, to be honest, contacted me hoping to have a bit of a laugh about a silly thing she did at Christmas. Except I could neither laugh with Kate nor, by the end of our conversation, could I comfort her. Here's what happened. Just after the festivities, Kate was so

cheered off with Arsenal's limp, chaotic, plodding old season that she stood up among a group of ten friends one boozey post-match night and said: "I would give my soul to The Devil if only we could turn around our form!" "Don't say that Kate," said her best mate. "I mean it," Kate went on. "I really mean it. Satan take my soul if Arsenal can do the double!"

Everyone pulled her back down to sit on the floor, but Kate was adamant and for the rest of the

FACT: A Mr Joel alerts us to the back of West Ham's programme, where there is a sober boxed selection giving people instructions on what to do if the ground needs evacuating. It includes the following phrase: "All official public address announcements will be preceded by the sounds Bing bong, bong bing. You must then listen for a message."

night sat in a funk glowering at her lily-livered lumps of friends and inwardly repeating the wish. When Arsenal won their next few games, Kate strutted about claiming responsibility. When Man Utd began inexplicably falling away, her bravado became more shaky. As players like Petit, Anelka and Wreh started to fulfil promise almost overnight, her smile turned sickly and frozen on her lips.

Now, with Arsenal standing but a formally away from a remarkable, unthinkable twin-triumph, Kate each night sleeps the sleep of The Damned, unable to enjoy the moment, disconnected from the party. She knows at what cost North London is celebrating. Then, last Saturday, she stopped casting a shadow.

Well, actually, I made that last bit up, but I did tell her to keep checking. Her only hope is that Arsenal will somehow even now collapse like Devon Loch. Or at least get trounced at Wembley by Newcastle, allowing Kate a loophole of light in her journey down the tunnel into Pandemonium. It's a long shot, but so strong is her fear that Kate has gone from being The Gunners' staunchest supporter to wishing them defeat. Such is the lesson from the Faustian story throughout the ages. Just before she hung up, Kate, thoroughly depressed and wretched, found a little spirit.

"So you think I'm done for then? Then I will spend the rest of my life in fear and doubt!"

I agreed that that was about the size of it.

Right then. Might as well be hung for a lamb as a sheep. I'll have Tottenham relegated too." And she was gone. Just before I had a chance to get her to squeeze England's summer campaign in on the infernal package. Oh, how odd. As I type that, outside some thunder has just rolled in. What a chilling coincidence. Or perhaps a demonic e-mail signifying that, for that particular request, there are already more than enough agents on the case...



It has been a nervous season for Tottenham fans. Even if his team survives relegation, a happy ending for Gross looks unlikely

One of the big three must swing

In 1975, I was queuing outside the Universal cinema in Lower Regent Street waiting to see *Jaws* when the previous house turned out. As the thoroughly entertained patrons filed past, one snooty young yobbo stopped alongside us, flung his arms wide and said in a loud clear voice: "Robbers Shaw gets eaten, the others don't and the shark gets killed when the last bullet hits an oxygen tank in its mouth." Then he ran away.

Well, at first we all turned to each other and pretended we hadn't quite caught what he had said and then agreed that he was probably drunk anyway and had made the entire elaborate scenario up. However, a depressed funk set in as we all shuffled inside. It was temporarily forgotten during the first half of the film, as the nail-biting plot developed up its shocks, but I assure you, the moment Robert Shaw's eye-rolling Captain Quint got snapped

like a Rich Tea, half of us were on our feet and heading for the exit. What a bloody swiz. Now I am beginning to have similar feelings about this football season. Surely it can't really be Palace, Barnsley and Bolton who go down after all? I mean, we knew that back in August. Just because Arsenal have pulled a rabbit from their hat at the summit doesn't excuse those big names down at base-camp short-changing the public. One of Everton, Tottenham Hotspur or, less likely damnit, Newcastle United has got to do the decent thing and go into the woods with a revolver or else teams in the top division will have only themselves to blame if attendances fall through the floor next year.

Combing the depths of public ridicule

As yet another initiative is launched to "Kick Racism Out of Soccer", I am contacted by a journalist friend who wants to see if I might punch up the tired old quotes he has scrambled so far. Sadly I can't. There is far too much grandstanding done in the name of defending football from the abyss and racism is not something that can either be done and then discarded before and after football matches like a lucky bubble hat.

He is now reduced to asking me about the worst treatment I have seen a player receive from a crowd. Here I have no hesitancy. It was at non-League Fisher Athletic when they played Bristol City in the FA Cup second round a few years back. The Bristol goalkeeper was totally bald, so bald he must carry his dandruff around in his hand. I was unaware of this until The Combs Starting Coming. Just one or two at first, but before long the sky was dark with this plastic-toothed and tortoise-shell shower. Then one of those ridiculous and outside bright pink combs available from joke shops sailed above my head and thudded on to the top of the netting, where it savagely grinned down at its victim. Of course! This was no accident! This was a replay. Not being a Fisher fan but merely a Fisher-man's friend, I had forgotten.

The dome had first presented itself at Ashton Gate and, of course, everybody had combs with them. The goalkeeper took it all quite manfully, but, as they came out for the second half, his shoulders slumped as he trudged towards the far end and an eager battalion with fresh ammo. He is going to bald hell on a handcart and while all manner of disgusting prejudices are quite rightly highlighted within the game today, my heart sinks for I know, as nature robs him of a roof, he will have to suffer the gibes and cruel unwanted gifts alone and without legislation. Naked. At least from the eyebrows up.

May the Force not be with you

At the risk of laying myself open to claims of simple contrariness, I must say I'm all in favour of the French bias against giving English supporters World Cup seats. We don't deserve any more. After all, who was it who had a shrill attack of the vapours a few weeks ago when the French announced that this was to be a free and easy World Cup, unbowed by scare stories and paranoid restrictions and anyone who wanted to pitch up in France on the off-chance of seeing a game was more than welcome?

The English authorities, that's who. The likes of Mr Mellor and his nonsensical Task Force, a body that, if it disappeared tomorrow, would not affect British football one iota. Indeed, it is a constant source of regret that, because of professional entanglements, I must steer clear of Mellor and his dreary opinions. So now ordinary supporters have had the door shut in their faces because the message France received about them from certain UK sources was that, if left unchecked, each and every one was liable to run up the black flag and start slitting throats. No wonder they simply removed such whingeing ninnyes from the equation.

Of course, if you left World Cup tickets in a big pile in the centre of all big cities with a sign sticking out saying "Help Yourself", it would not influence the attendance figures at certain opening-round games. One of the grand traditions of every World Cup is the sight of empty terracing during early group fixtures. Nobody should forget that, when Ray Wilkins was sent off against Morocco in 1986, it was in a stadium so desolate they were hunting bears in the East Stand. So it doesn't take an Einstein to figure out that the constant stories about ticket shortages can only indicate that, when the actual matches come along, many locations will be quiet enough to hear the universal song of an under-attended game... the voices of the players themselves.

Oliver given chance to confirm quality

By Sri Kumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent
THE super-bantamweight division is the most exciting in Great Britain, after super-middleweight. The weight has four world-class boxers with exceptional talents: Wayne McCullough, of Belfast, Spencer Oliver, of Barnet, Patrick Mullings, of Harrow, and Michael Brodie, from Manchester. Their contests are never dull, but, of the four, Oliver, 23, stands out as the one with star quality. With the right exposure, Oliver, who was recently voted the best young boxer of the year by boxing writers, could become a personality to compare with Naseem Hamed and Chris Eubank. While boxing fans would like to see the four meet, Jess Harding, Oliver's manager, has decided to avoid domestic contests. After stopping Mullings, a pocket Nigel Benn, in ten rounds, in 1997, Oliver lifted the vacant European championship and defended it three times. Now Harding feels that it is time to seek a world title challenge. Tonight, Oliver makes the fourth defence of his European title. He meets Sergei Devakov, of Ukraine, at the Albert Hall. Oliver was taken the distance by Sergei Poitblan, of France, and Vincenzo Belcastro, of Italy, but his fourth-round knockout of Fabrice Benichou, of France, a former International Boxing Federation champion, was a spectacular success, especially as Brodie, boxing on the undercard, was boxed to struggle by Brian Carr, of Scotland. Devakov was outpointed by Belcastro and is unlikely to cause too many problems for Oliver. The Ukrainian is a typical East European boxer, travelling in straight lines but well-schooled and durable. If Oliver stops him, he should enhance his claim for a world title challenge.

Cayard hoping to make the French connection

FROM EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN ANNAPOLIS
Gunnar Krantz, on Swedish Match, is his only priority. "We are not in a position of taking risks any more," he said. Krantz accepts that he has only a slim chance of catching the Californian. "We do have to look carefully behind us because Merit Cup [Grant Dalton] and Innovation Kvaerner [Knut Frostad] are close to us, so it's a game of putting the throttle all the way down and not taking too many risks," he said. Among new crew members on this leg is Isabelle Autissier, the leading French single-handed sailor, who is joining the all-female crew on *EF Education*. She has never sailed on a Whitbread 60 before, but may skipper one in the next race. On *Toshiba*, which languishes in seventh place overall, the new navigator is Murray Ross, of New Zealand, a Whitbread veteran and Olympic gold medal-winner in the Flying Dutchman class. He replaces Andrew Cape, who resigned when the yacht reached Baltimore. Dennis Conner, the syndicate head, is hoping *Toshiba* will finally do herself justice. "With Murray on board, I am optimistic about our chances for a podium position in the remaining two legs," he said. Meanwhile, Turve Johannesson, the president of the Volvo car corporation, announced yesterday that the next race, starting in 2001, will be called the Volvo Ocean Race and will be sailed in the same class of boat, which will be renamed the Volvo Ocean 60. The race office will remain in Great Britain. The route has yet to be confirmed, but it will definitely start in Britain and follow a similar course to the present race, Johannesson said. A decision on whether the race might finish in Gothenburg has not yet been taken. Johannesson underlined that Volvo's commitment to sailing is both significant and long-term, comparing it to the company's 20-year involvement in equestrianism. In addition to taking over the Whitbread and promoting sailing at youth level around the world, the company is also to sponsor the ISAF world championships. Johannesson said Volvo's move into sailing coincided with its decision to scale down its commitment to equestrianism and golf. "We have chosen sailing because we believe it strongly embodies all of the values that will become more important over the next decade," he said. "Strength, teamwork, leading-edge technology, safety, excitement and achievement will all be the motivators of the future."

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Ronaldo's ban lifted

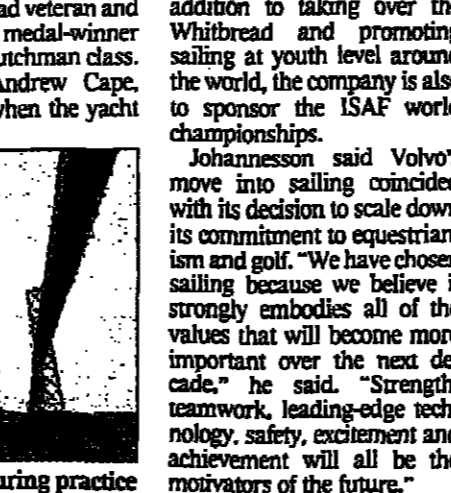
THE two-match suspension on Ronaldo for insulting referees has been lifted on a technicality, clearing the Brazil striker to play for Internazionale tomorrow. Ronaldo accused Italian referees of being corrupt after Fazio Ceccarini turned down his penalty appeal against Juventus and then awarded one against Inter seconds later last Sunday. His ban was lifted on appeal because the match report of the

Boxing

incident was made by Claudio Puglisi, the fourth official, rather than Ceccarini. After a complex debate, Italy's football authorities decided that a fourth match official has no authority to make such a report. Ronaldo, who played for Brazil in the 1-0 loss to Argentina on Wednesday, was delighted with the verdict. "It's wonderful news after so many sad days," he said.

Sailing

Toshiba passes the Chesapeake Bay Bridge during practice



FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Mark Hodgkinson on the investment in youth that promises a rich future at struggling Barnsley

Young blood reviving club where hope ails

No one has really noticed him. He might have been queuing at the tea hut for all the influence he was having on the game. Abruptly he was drawn into the play. A swivel of the hips, a sudden acceleration, 1-0 to the Arsenal.

For a ghastly minute, it remained the Barnsley faithful of the old days of about four months ago, when their beloved team would trudge around, cement in their boots, while the litesome sprats from Big Time FC effortlessly notched yet another goal: 6-0, and the big Oakwell oh no.

Dennis Bergkamp, and a handful of his colleagues, were, simply, in a league of their own last Saturday. Not for the first time this season, it marked out the distance between Barnsley and the football elite, the dilettante and the dynasty. Tactics and tall are sometimes enough, but worthless against players with magic feet.

Arsenal is the quintessential football empire, a club imbued with tradition, organisation, thoroughness; when players pull on the red-and-white shirt, they sense it is important and their privilege. They are part of a kinship and of the age when it is their turn to wear the family colours.

The immediate prognosis for Barnsley is not good and they will be relegated if they do not win away to Leicester City

today. While their FA Carling Premiership pulse is faint, the club has made — by its own standards anyway — a prodigious investment in its long-term future. It does not want to merely share pitch space with the Arsenal and Manchester Uniteds, it aspires to its own perpetuity of quality, a Kwik Save with designs to become a Marks & Spencer.

Barnsley's starting line-up against Arsenal included four players associated with them since they were schoolboys. Chris Morgan, had he not been suspended, would have taken his place among the back three. He is another to have worked his way through the ranks.

Three full-time members of staff are charged with ensuring that Barnsley's success is not ephemeral. Colin Walker, Peter Casken and Maurice Firth

are youth team coach, academy director and youth liaison officer respectively. Like many clubs, Barnsley is about to launch its own academy of football. The terminology might be a tad cumbersome, but the aim is direct enough — find young players, nurture them and supply them primed for the first team.

"The word I always use when asked what we are looking for in a lad is 'attitude'," Firth, who has been connected with Barnsley for more than 40 years, said. "Attitude" is his shorthand for



Walker, the youth team coach at Barnsley, is working tirelessly to make sure that the club's young talent has a place in the broader picture

determination, loyalty, a willingness to learn and a love of the club. "Technically, the lads are sound. They can do those Cruyff turns in their sleep, but their attitude has got to be just right," he said.

The progress of Morgan has been a fillip to the backroom staff. He is seen as epitomising the spirit of the club. "The first time he saw me after he had broken into the first team, he came over and shook my hand. He said 'thanks a lot, it was only a small thing in itself, but it made me feel good,'" Firth said.

Next season, Barnsley will have representative teams from under-9s to under-16s. At the age of 16, players with first-team potential will be offered a

three-year scholarship at the club, which effectively replaces the old apprenticeship scheme. Each week they are guaranteed 12 hours of football coaching and 12 hours of formal education.

There is a well-spring of talent in the South Yorkshire area, but the competition for young players is intense. "Put it this way," Firth said, "there are some clubs, not naming any names, who we will not play friendly matches against for obvious reasons. I tell my scouts not to approach lads signed for other teams. They should make a note of their details, just in case they become free at a later date, but leave it at that."

Barnsley cannot promise

salaries, or even national fame, but Colin Walker takes special bait when he visits the home of a schoolboy. "I sometimes take a first-team shirt and I say 'if you are good enough and you work out enough, this is yours in a few years' time.' They look at our first team and see the likes of Morgan, Eaden, and Watson, and I think it gives them hope that they can make it."

Walker knows more than anyone about the zeal with which clubs pursue gifted schoolboys. He was himself a footballing child prodigy, scoring 166 goals during one season of 22 games. He was featured on national television and dubbed "better than George Best" by one news-

paper. He was slow to develop physically and, while he was coveted by football's gentry at the age of 10, the interest in a 15-year-old who was just 5ft 11in was negligible. Still, after a growth spurt, he eked out a living in the game. From Matlock Town to Sheffield Wednesday, taking in several lowly professional teams and a spell as an international for New Zealand, when he emigrated there in the 1980s.

Like most of Barnsley's boot-room team, including Darryl Wilson, the manager, who worked in a brickworks, Walker served time as a "civvy". He was a dustman for three years and he brings this slice of life authenticity to his dealings with young players.

He was also a Barnsley player, with a commendable strike-rate of 12 goals in 24 matches. "He was crap, but he could score goals and I always tell him that, too," John Dennis, the club chairman, joked.

Barnsley's dream of serenity based upon gilded youth may well founder alongside their Premiership existence. "It is all very expensive to set up and it may become a white elephant if they don't have success with the first team," one insider said. True, but Barnsley is a club that does not spend what it does not have, nor say what it does not mean. Noticeably, from chairman to scout, it is talking in most unYorkshire terms about the burgeoning youth set-up.

Smith bids farewell to Ibrox as the title tension increases

By Kevin McCarron

WHEN Walter Smith received the Bell's manager of the month award for April yesterday, he was courteous enough not to convey a distracted air. Pleasant though the prize must have been, he must be preoccupied with thoughts of the trophies that are still to be decided. His Rangers side is in the Tennents Scottish Cup final, but the real attention falls upon the club's prospects in the Bell's Scottish League premier division.

In that competition, they are a point behind Celtic and play Kilmarnock at home in their penultimate fixture this afternoon. Smith is approaching far more than just the close season. Today will see him take charge of the team for the last time at Ibrox, since he is to stand down as manager in the summer, when Dick Advocaat, of PSV Eindhoven, succeeds him.

Given the Dutchman's intention to revamp Rangers, a few players will be joining Smith in taking their last bow at the club, with Ally McCoist and Andy Goram the most distinguished figures leaving the stage. Smith draws satisfaction from the fact that there can be no treacherous sentiment to the occasion.

"A few of us," the manager said, "will feel a little bit of regret, but all of that is secondary to the match itself. It would have been different if we had nothing to play for." For a while this season, it had seemed that emotion would have to fill the gap in Rangers' life that is usually filled by ambition. The club's hopes of



Smith: April award

a tenth successive title appeared dead at the beginning of last month.

The manager of the month award is recognition of a recovery that saw Rangers beat Celtic twice, once in the league and once in the Scottish Cup, while Jörg Albertz, their Germany midfielder, received the player of the month award. All the same, the Ibrox club's record has not been without flaw and, two weeks ago at Pittodrie, Aberdeen beat them for the first time in three years in the premier division.

Rangers have recovered a little of their strength, without quite ridding themselves of fallibility. Kilmarnock, who currently occupy the fourth place in the table that confers entry to the UEFA Cup, will not travel to Glasgow with trepidation, even if they may be again without Paul Wright, the forward, who has been troubled by a back injury. "Outside the three clubs who have been contesting the title," Smith said, "Kilmarnock have been the best."

The identity of the official on duty this afternoon has caused controversy. Bobby Tait is making his final appearance as a premier division referee and there have been newspaper claims that he has a fondness for Rangers and asked to be appointed to the game at Ibrox.

"I find it very strange that Mr Tait is receiving criticism at this stage of his career," Smith said. "He has been a grade one official for ten years and, if there was any bias towards Rangers, you would have thought it would have surfaced before now."

There are other respects, too, in which motives will be questioned this weekend. Celtic will become even stronger favourites for the title if they win at East End Park tomorrow. Dunfermline, their opponents, might be suspected of indifference, given that they have already ensured survival in the premier division, but it is likely that Celtic's need for victory will add intensity to the afternoon and galvanise both teams.

Fear and desperation can be taken for granted at Easter Road. Should Hibernian defeat Dundee United, they will be just two points behind the Tannadice club as they attempt to evade relegation.

Pain of relegation not eased by past glories

Everton and Manchester City, two big clubs who have fallen on hard times, face a crucial weekend

Manchester City down to the second division of the Nationwide League? Everton replacing them in the first division? How are the mighty fallen; or all but fallen.

They can always rise again, of course, as Nottingham Forest have done this season. Acclaimed winners of two successive European Cups in 1979 and 1980, never possessing the financial clout of more fashionable metropolitan teams, it was perhaps inevitable that their star would wane, as the star waned of the remarkable Brian Clough. He made them, with a good deal of help from Peter Taylor.

Talking of Forest, my mind goes back a few months to a match I saw at the City Ground against Manchester City, a match in which they were totally outplayed. It was a game dominated by Georgi Kinkladze, the Georgian midfielder. Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, had made no provisions to contain him. In consequence, he ran the game, displaying his whole impressive repertoire. It was inconceivable that evening to envisage Manchester City fighting desperately against relegation.

It is still hard to understand what went wrong. Frank Clark, formerly manager of Forest, was in charge and there has been little doubt of his capabilities. Kinkladze, alas, is another story. As one frustrated critic says of him, "sometimes you can't find him with radar". Moreover, whenever Kinkladze was close-marked, City's wheels would fail to turn round, so, in the end, under Joe Royle's regime, he has been dropped.

I would venture to say that City's decline began as long ago as 1970 — and

BRIAN GLANVILLE



even before that, there is a curious precedent. In 1936-37, they won the championship with a team enlivened by the polymath brilliance of Peter Doherty. The following season, they were relegated, despite scoring a host of goals. Fast forward to 1970. City had won the 1967-68 championship under the managerial regime of Joe Mercer and Malcolm Allison. Mercer had, in a sense, been the mahout on the back of the rogue elephant — the elephant being his gifted but erratic coach, Allison.

A small group of City fans, fearful that Allison might leave, bought shares from a biddable director, gained control of the club and installed Allison as manager. That did not work. When Allison signed Rodney Marsh from Queens Park Rangers, things fell apart. City failed to win a championship that seemed to be theirs for the taking.

Later came the regime of Peter Swales, a self-made

millionaire, who dismissed Mel Machin as manager and declared that Machin "had no rapport with the fans".

Everton? They have been there before, although for many years, before the Shankly era, they overshadowed Liverpool. Howard Kendall, in his third incarnation as the Everton manager, must look back nostalgically to the grand old days of the Kendall, Ball and Harvey midfield, when Everton could cope with anybody.

The casual conquest in the Cup Winners' Cup, in Rotterdam, not to mention the championship, in 1985, when Liverpool's violent fans, one week after Everton's Cup Winners' Cup triumph, effectively put English clubs out of Europe for years to come, spoke for themselves.

But then, what of Wolverhampton Wanderers? So dominant a club under Stan Cullis right through the Sixties, ownership changed, much for the worse, and the ultimate humiliation came in 1986, when Wolves slid into the old fourth division.

Let us earnestly hope that at least the Stoke City v Manchester City confrontation this weekend is less explosive than it has been in the past. A few years ago, when Manchester United played at the Victoria Ground, local hooligans hurled bricks at the coaches of United fans. Inadvertently, they flung one through a coach carrying The New Seekers and, because of the air conditioning, there was a huge explosion.

The pop group thought they had been attacked by the IRA. Delusions of grandeur. There can be few left for Manchester City or Everton.

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SNAKES AND LA THE MATCHES MATTER

ABOUT THE MATCHES

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THIRD DIVISION

Lincoln v Brighton

Doncaster v Colchester

Chester v Scarborough

Rochdale v Barnet

North County v Rochdale

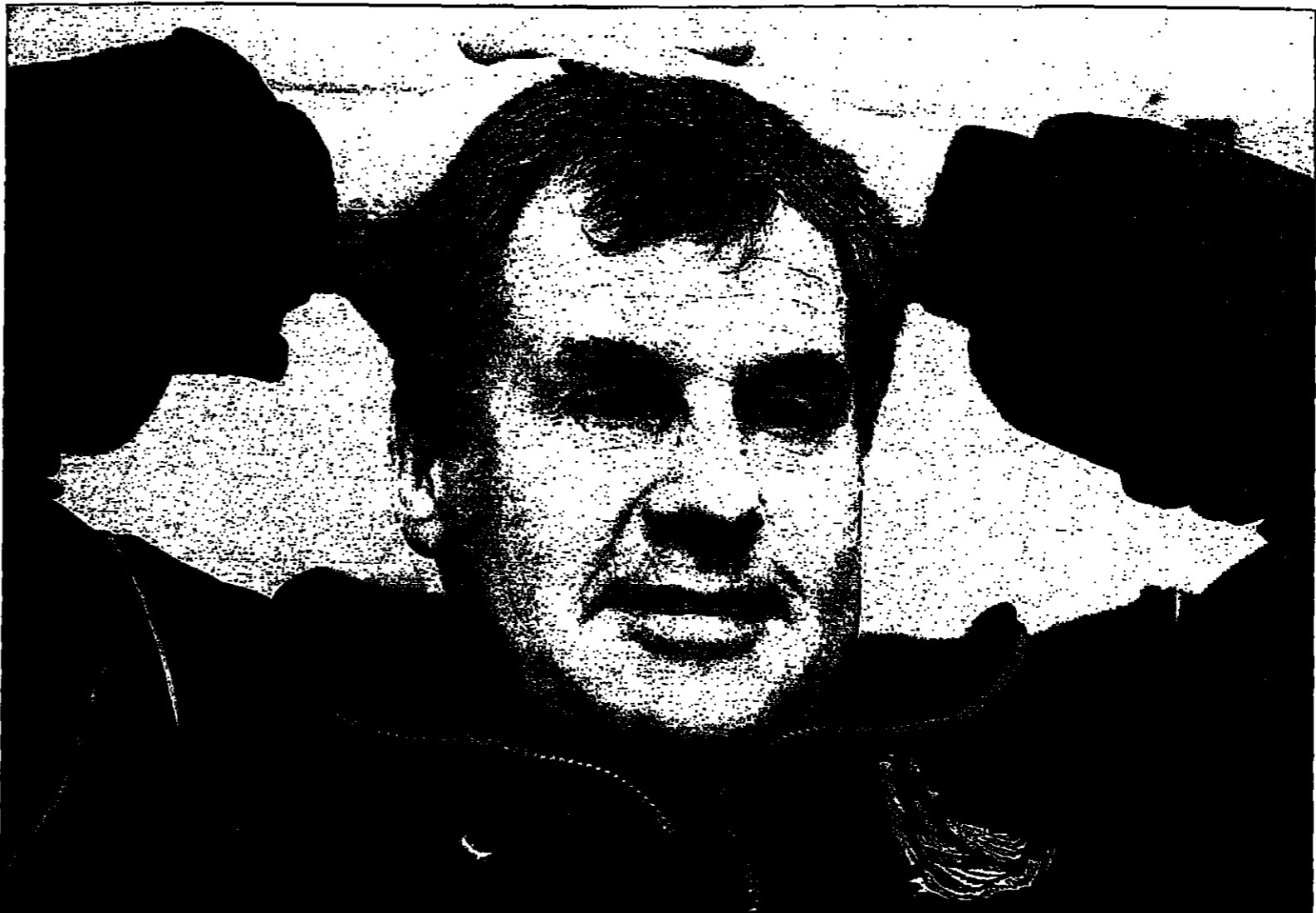
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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Fallen giants seek Royle pardon

Latest man to take charge at Maine Road surveys task of arresting years of decline



Royle does not argue with the view that the match at Stoke tomorrow could be the biggest in the history of the club. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Joe Royle is sitting back in his chair behind his small desk in his small office, thinking about the better times, when Manchester City supporters used to travel to Stoke carrying inflatable giant bananas and bedecked in fancy dress.

Black humour has become a prerequisite for anyone connected with the protracted funeral procession that supporting City has become these past 15 years, but it is to Royle's credit that he has managed to cling on to his so far. It may only have been nine weeks since he took charge at the club, but what he has inherited is a well-chronicled situation that veers between chaos and anarchy and fills the club's followers with an appalled wonder.

"You haven't got time," he says when he is asked, like all the other managers have been asked before him, about the reasons why things should have reached this pass at a club that still attracts more than 30,000 loyal supporters to its home games but is now teetering on the brink of relegation to the Nationwide League second division.

Instead, he begins with a bitter-sweet anecdote, a story that could have come out of some inner-city drama. It is a Boys from the Black Stuff story, something that would be funny if it was not so sad, if it did not tell you just how low a proud club had been brought and how desperate its supporters have grown.

It stems from the fact that the club does not have its own training ground. Royle describes the facility the players use as "a cross between a crèche, a zoo and a fast-food outlet". It is in Moss Side and is owned by the community. Local sides play on it and the surface is so uneven that a Sunday league team might reject it.

"A couple of weeks ago," Royle says, "I was sitting in my office when there was a knock at the door. There was a young fella standing there who we'd never seen before. I said 'can I help you' and he said 'I've come for a trial'.

I said 'right' and he said 'I can score goals for you. I can score lots of goals for you'. So I said 'well, who do you play for?' And he said 'I don't play for anyone but I can score goals for you'.

"That sort of thing is just a symptom. We have not landed where we are now on the back of one bad season or a few bad results. We lost home games earlier this season to clubs like Port Vale, Bury, Stoke and Huddersfield and, in the short term, that is why we are in the fix we are in now. But I could see the problems here from afar.

This has been coming. This is a culmination of things happening over so many seasons. Too many changes, too many different kinds of players that don't necessarily suit the place, some who can't handle the size of the arena here, too many managers' choices, poor training facilities. This has not arrived by accident. This has been coming."

Give or take a few hapless caretakers, Royle is the sixteenth manager to have walked through the revolving doors at Maine Road since he left the club as a player in the aftermath of their victory in the 1976 League Cup final, the last time that they won a trophy. Other established players in their prime, men such as Asa Hartford, Peter Barnes and Willie Donachie, were allowed to leave with him

OLIVER HOLT



as Malcolm Allison took over for the second time. Many feel City have not been the same again.

Now, they need to beat Stoke City, their fellow travellers in the relegation battle, to have a chance of staying in the modest surrounds of the first division. Even if they win, they will still go down if Portsmouth and Port Vale both secure victories, too. The odds are stacked against them.

They may have to try to achieve their victory without Georgi Kinkladze, the Georgian who has become a wonderful consolation amid all the mediocrity. Royle, though, has used him sparingly anyway and sees him as part of the problem as much as the solution.

"He does have a George Best-like talent," Royle says. "People have clung on to him because he does things that mere mortals can only dream of. What he seldom does are the things that ordinary players do. He seldom tracks back, tackles, gets back in the shape of things or trains hard. Some people say the problems have come because Geo has not had the support he should have had from the team, others would say it is because the team have not had the support from him. Somewhere in between the truth might lie."

But as befits a manager who once masterminded Oldham Athletic's escape from relegation by winning their final three games of the season and dragged Everton away from relegation when he took over at Goodison Park, Royle remains optimistic that there is still hope of belated salvation, that things may be on the verge of getting better.

When he arrived, City had 54 professionals on their books, far more than most Premiership clubs. Their reserve team was stocked with players who had been bought by other managers. "We have got good young kids here," Royle says. "There are players here who are desperate for a chance and they have just been smothered. That is changing now."

There is a new chairman, too, David Bernstein, the chairman of the French Connection fashion group, and he is already helping Royle in the search for new facilities. With

Francis Lee gone, the club at last seems to be pulling together in its adversity rather than pulling itself apart. The future, though, rests on 90 minutes at Stoke.

"When people in Manchester say it is the biggest game in the club's history, then I can't really argue with them," Royle says. "It is the biggest game I have ever been involved with."

We can start trying to turn everything around by staying up. That is massive. If we did go down, the problems would take on even greater proportions because then the players that I had in mind to bring here next season might not fancy the second division.

"The purse strings would be tighter because the crowds would be less, so you end up chasing your tail again. You say: How does a club this size get to this stage? Well, Aston Villa did it several years ago

and Newcastle nearly did it. It can happen, but now we have got to hope for a phoenix from the ashes job.

"I have signed a contract for this season plus two more. I am told by people they can see an improvement in the team. Whether that is just because they think that is what I want to hear is another thing. If we go down, it will put us back a year and it will be bloody hard to get out. It would be preposterous to think we will come storming back out of that division. It will be a bitter pill for everyone to swallow.

"But there is always hope. If the worst happened, it would not be like a small team going down and they would be going down the spiral even faster. Because of the size and the resources and the potential of the place, hopefully we would be back up sooner rather than later — but we still have not given up hope. I still think we can win at Stoke and, if we did, I think we would be very unfortunate to go down."

With that, Royle gets up to go. He walks out into the foyer just as the lunch crowd are beginning to arrive. If there is any consolation, it is that they are walking into a restaurant called Oasis. How City could do with one of those in their desert.

Survival instinct lifts Kendall

By DAVID MADDOCK AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

SOME THINGS in life seem to have been there for ever — Wisden, Bob Monkhouse, and Arsenal and Everton in the top division. Tomorrow, when Arsenal and Everton meet, the tenure of the latter in the FA Carling Premiership could well be undermined by the former.

Only Arsenal have been in the top division in English football longer than Everton. For 44 years, Goodison Park has entertained the elite of the game, safe in its inalienable right to such supremacy. These days, there is no room for such complacency in the money-driven world of football and the expected defeat for Everton, as Arsenal confirm their status as champions, will have dramatic consequences for the Merseyside club.

No wonder, then, that Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, describes the next week as the most important in his managerial career. "We need four points from our last two matches to be sure of survival," he said yesterday. "Of course, things might be different on Saturday night, after Bolton have played, but, as it stands at present, we know that we have to go to Arsenal and spoil their party."

Ian Wright is likely to return for Arsenal, on the substitutes' bench, as Arsène Wenger, the manager, replaces the injured Dennis Bergkamp with Christopher Wreh. Dave Watson, the Everton defender, is likely to be recalled by Kendall after recovering from a knee injury.

Manchester City have similar problems to Everton. Skulking in the lowest league position in their history, they are facing the prospect of falling out of the leading two divisions for the first time.

Such a prospect does not bear thinking about, particularly because of the financial implications for a publicly-listed company, which explains why City are prepared to charter a private jet to bring Georgi Kinkladze back from a game for Georgia, his country, in Tunisia today.

It will mean the midfield player turning out this evening and then again at Stoke City tomorrow. "Georgia refuse to release him, so we will try to get him back on a private plane," Joe Royle, the City manager, said.

For Middlesbrough, it is not a plane that is required to get their best player on the field, but a doctor. Paul Gascoigne faces a fitness test this morning on an injured ankle, but is likely to face Oxford United in a match where victory would guarantee Middlesbrough automatic promotion. "I can't see why we can't do it, this is a Premiership club and that is where we belong," Gascoigne said.

If Middlesbrough win, pushing Sunderland and Charlton Athletic into the play-offs, it will signal the end for Nigel Pearson, the central defender. Pearson, 34, was the first signing of Bryan Robson,

the Middlesbrough manager, when joining from Sheffield Wednesday for £500,000 four years ago.

"People said I was buying an injury-prone player, but they've been proved wrong," Robson said. "Nigel has been a great servant to the club and a great help to me." Pearson will only delay his retirement if Middlesbrough slip up against Oxford and are forced into the play-offs.

In the second division, Fulham chase the draw that they need to reach the play-offs when they play Watford at Craven Cottage in front of an expected 17,000 crowd. Watford could be crowned champions if they better the result of Bristol City, who travel to Preston North End.

Torquay United will secure automatic promotion from the third division if they beat Leyton Orient, but the players of Mansfield Town, with nothing to play for, have no pay, either. They have not received their wages for the second successive month and have called in the Professional Footballers' Association to help solve their problem.

In the latest twist to the Crystal Palace saga, Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, said yesterday that he is willing to restructure the takeover deal of Mark Goldberg, the prospective new owner, so that sanity might possibly return to Selhurst Park. Noades, once rid of Palace, is reported to be considering a takeover of Brentford, the struggling second-division club.

Bergkamp receives honour from writers

ONE double is already assured at Highbury after Dennis Bergkamp was yesterday named the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year to go with the Player of the Year trophy he received from the Professional Footballers' Association last month (Matt Dickinson writes).

A hamstring injury means that the Holland international will be absent tomorrow when victory for Arsenal over Everton will clinch the FA Carling Premiership title, but his influence this season has been immense.

Arène Wenger, his manager at Highbury, said: "At the beginning of the season, Dennis was unstoppable and he can still get better. I will have many wonderful memories of him this season, particularly his goal against Leicester, when he juggled the ball, the one against Southampton, when he showed the strength and rage to burst through, and the one at Barnsley last week, because it was so important." Wenger added that it is still touch and go whether Bergkamp will be fit for the FA Cup Final.

SNAKES AND LADDERS: THE MATCHES THAT MATTER

Table of football matches categorized by division (Premiership, First Division, Second Division, Third Division) with outcomes and key notes for each match.

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Wenger worked his magic at Arsenal despite the rumours

I expect Arsenal to be confirmed as champions this weekend and, if they are, it will be a thoroughly deserved success. No one, not even players from rival teams, can deny that they have done it the hard way and proved themselves to be the best side over a long, hard season. I can remember when Liverpool beat them at Highbury at the end of November, people suggested that they were a struggling side, that the foreigners within the club were at war with each other, that the manager had lost the plot and had to be replaced. They were poor that day, that much is true, but even then, I knew that most of the stories about Arsenal were wrong. When you go away on England duty, you get all the gossip from different clubs and, believe me, if there was a split at Arsenal, then their England players would have been talking about it. I have spoken to the Arsenal players and asked them about their new regime and they have all said that there were no problems with the foreign players. In fact, even during their bad spell over Christmas, they were enthusiastic, because they believed it was only a matter of time before everything clicked. They have been proved correct, spectacularly so. If there were no big political battles, then why did Arsenal appear to go off the rails, why did they get that torrent of criticism? First, they were simply going through a bad patch, which every team in the division goes through at some stage in the season, no matter how good or big the club is. Second, there was clearly a spell when their foreign players went through a transition period as they came to grips with the demands of English football. When you have a new side, there is always a period of settling in, especially when the style of play is alien. I also think that, like most clubs, they struggled to overcome a few injuries. When we beat them, Viet was missing and I think he has been a significant influence this season. They have also lost Bergkamp, Adams, Bould and — of course — Ian Wright for periods. To have won the league without Wright, who is such an important player for them, is a significant achievement. Speaking to their players, it is clear that Arsène Wenger, their manager, commands a great deal of respect. I had to laugh when I heard the tales about Wenger apparently not having the players behind him at Highbury earlier in the season. The same players who were supposed to dislike him so much came to England duty and raved about him. Wenger has introduced new diets, fitness programmes and training regimes at Highbury. The very fact that he came in with new ideas was a breath of fresh air at the club and it has paid dividends. I know Gary Lewin, the England and Arsenal physio, well and he also says just how excellent Wenger has been. There is another factor behind their success as well — the crowd. There is a lot more noise at Highbury these days, especially behind one of the goals, which used to have no atmosphere at all a few years ago. You could even say that they were a bit wooden. Qualified success For Liverpool, Arsenal's success is frustrating, because it means another year has passed without winning a trophy. If we win our last three matches, we will finish in third position, which would qualify us for a place in the UEFA Cup and be regarded as a success at most clubs — but not at Liverpool. We need to win things. We are a massive club and our supporters demand success: they want to win trophies. In my career, I have won two cup medals, but I am at an age now where I want to win trophies and to play against the best players in Europe. First and foremost, you want to just get into Europe and the UEFA Cup is an achievement, but ideally, it is the European Cup that the fans, the players and the management are desperate to qualify for. Much ado about nothing I cannot complete this column without mentioning the incredible fuss generated by Glenn Hoddle's decision to let the media know that Eileen Drewey has been working with some England players. You would have thought that he had brought in a criminal, instead of a lovely woman who is there merely to help the players with their mental and physical preparations, by supporting the rest of the England staff. In particular, I was amazed to find myself described as a sceptic and a ring-leader among the players against Eileen. One newspaper even quoted me as apparently saying that I thought it was all a load of rubbish. Another said rude things about my lip. I have spoken to David Davies, the England director of communications, and we are now consult-

McMANAMAN'S WORLD



ing lawyers because I have never spoken to any member of the media about Eileen Drewey and would never dream of speaking out against her. My view about her work, for what it is worth, is that I will never criticise anyone or anything that could help a player when he is injured. Fortunately, I have missed only about four matches in the last four or five years, but I suffered a long-term injury, then I would be prepared to accept any help I could. Similarly, if she can help a player to get his mental attitude right then surely that must be a positive benefit. Mixed emotions Finally, I must mention Everton. There are plenty of our fans who are praying that they will lose at Arsenal on Sunday and suffer the indignity of relegation. I am not among them. It would certainly give our fans a buzz for a week or two and there is no doubt that it would allow everyone connected to Liverpool a wry smile, but after that, I think that we would miss the far greater buzz of a derby. Players love appearing in the really big matches and Everton is one of them. I am praying for an Everton win. I think it must be the effect of a long, hard season. STEVE McMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

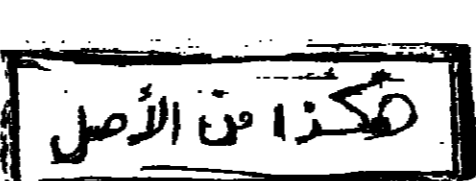
Table with columns: (Last week's position in brackets), PLAYED, POINTS, GOAL DIFF, HOME (W, D, L, F, A), AWAY (W, D, L, F, A), LAST 10 MATCHES (W-D-L), CURRENT STREAK. Lists teams from Arsenal (1) to Crystal Palace (20).

WEEKEND MATCHES

Table listing weekend matches for TODAY and TOMORROW, including match details, kick-off times, and referee names.

Statistical summary section including ATTACK, SCORING TRENDS, SCORERS, DEFENCE, CLEAN SHEETS, CAUTIONS, OFFENDERS, REFEREES, AERIAL THREAT, and INTERNET. Includes various statistics and links.

COVERAGE section detailing television and radio coverage of the Premier League matches, including channel and time slot information.



RUGBY LEAGUE

Sheffield face bare facts with rare show of self-belief

By Christopher Irvine

UNFORTUNATELY, the question at Wembley today is not so much whether Sheffield Eagles can go the "Full Monty" and produce the biggest upset in 97 finals of the ilk Cut Challenge Cup but...

John Kear, the Sheffield coach, can understand the underdog label, but bristled at the no-hopers tag. "We were given no chance at Castleford and no chance against Salford in the semis," he said. "We've great self-confidence. If anyone is under pressure, it is Wigan and expectations of a point win."

bring joy rather than relief. Last September, Danny Moore, one of Wigan's new Australian quartet, was in the Mainly side surprisingly beaten by Newcastle Knights in the Australian grand final.

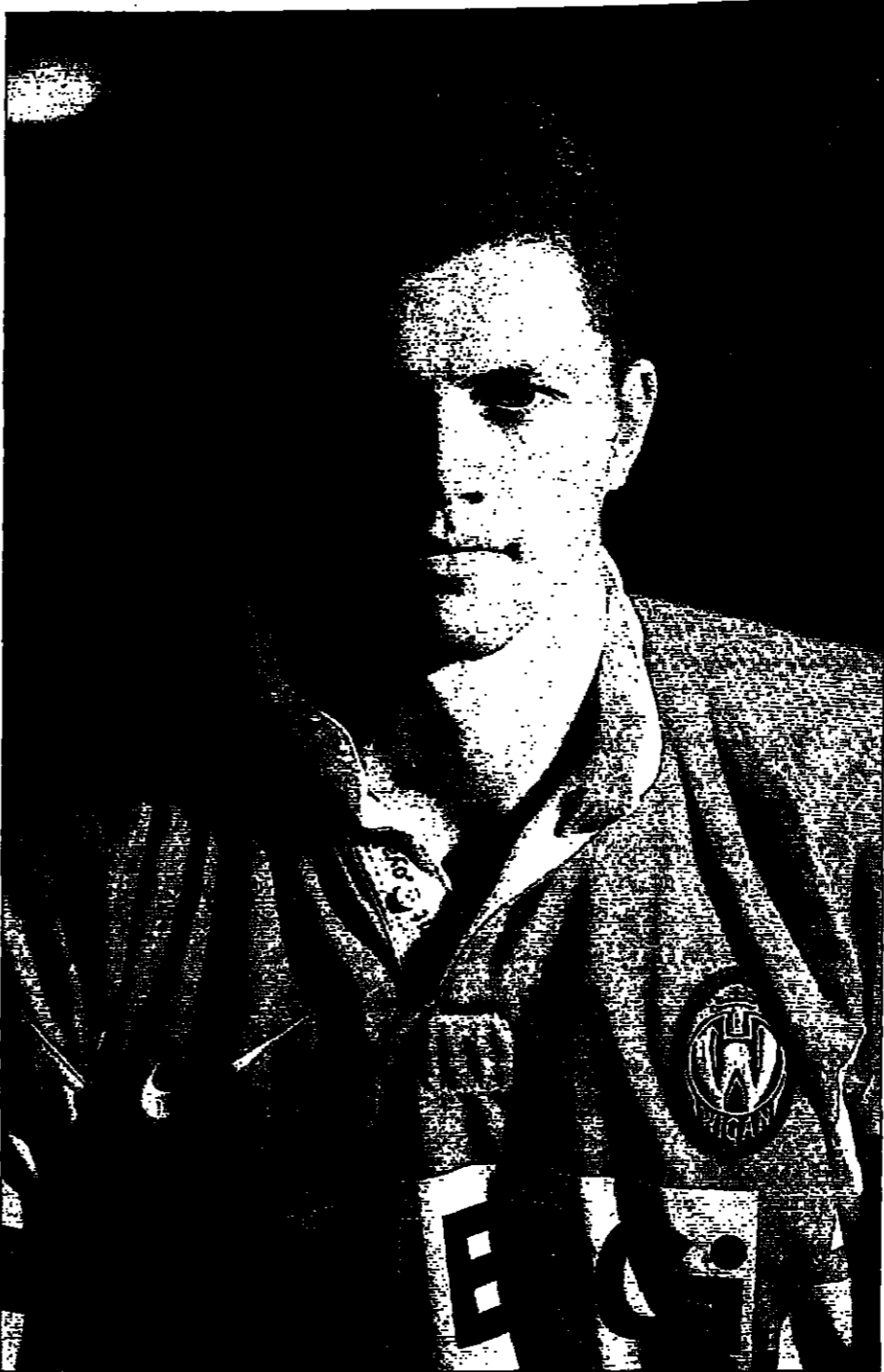
When John Monie returned to Wigan as coach this season and Dave Whelan, the multi-millionaire, bought the club, the Challenge Cup was identified as the first priority.

Today's attendance is unlikely to top 65,000, which would make it the smallest since 54,730 saw Wakefield Trinity beat Wigan in the 1946 final. More relevant for Sheffield is the defeat of Hull, runaway favourites in 1983, by unfancied Featherstone Rovers.

Where Eagles bared for the tabloids this week in a Half Monty (with socks, boots and balls), they must dare at Wembley, otherwise they will be embarrassingly exposed.

Christopher Irvine analyses the resurgence of Henry Paul

Henry Paul is enjoying the best three weeks of his life. He got married, he got recalled to the New Zealand side five days after the wedding...



Paul is an exciting talent in a variety of roles at both club and international level

Paul was an extravagant, joyous talent. Put him at full back, half back, loose forward, anywhere really, and inspirational sparks flew.

Defences bowed to his sheer exuberance. And this is the way it proceeded, until last year and his return from a brief loan spell in rugby union with Jason Robinson at Bath.

John Monie gave me a blast, but he showed faith in me

me as his stand-off," he said. "Eric was a good fella, but he wasn't the right coach last year. John's brought the discipline back. Training sessions leave us hammered, but it's a good feeling. Last year I didn't want to go to training because we weren't really learning."

New Zealand's defeat of Australia last week has shown that every underdog can have its day, although all of Paul's memories of watching Wembley finals on television as a youngster in the Auckland suburb of Te Atatu are of Wigan winning and two other New Zealand brothers, Kevin and Tony

Spin doctor back in the familiar routine

controversially came before national team selection in 1996, it represented a reconciliation with Frank Endacott, the coach, and an almost certain place on the Kiwis' tour here this autumn.

After his Wembley debut in 1993, David Toplis persuaded him to spend the rest of that season with Wakefield. As the most promising player in New Zealand, Paul was one of the pre-launch signings by the new Auckland Warriors outfit.

After two years of Robbie for Bradford Bulls in the final, it is time again for big brother to take centre stage. Henry's twinkling face, the rugby equivalent of the Ali Shuffle, are itching to go. His medal, whatever colour, will be parcelled off immediately to their ailing grandmother back home.

WEMBLEY'S WAR OF THE ROSES. Challenge Cup final teams and statistics. SHEFFIELD EAGLES (probable): Squad No. Position Name. WIGAN WARRIORS: Squad No. Position Name.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL: ISLAND LEAGUE, INSTONLEIGH KENT LEAGUE, CRAWLEY DIRECT LEAGUE, NORTH LEAGUE, SOUTH LEAGUE, NORTH WEST LEAGUE, SOUTH EAST LEAGUE, NORTH LEAGUE, SOUTH LEAGUE, NORTH WEST LEAGUE, SOUTH EAST LEAGUE.

RUGBY UNION: Kick-off 3.0 unless stated. Allied Dunbar Premiership First division, Gloucester v Sale, Northampton v Bath, Richmond v Wasps.

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM. An evening with Toni Morrison. TONI MORRISON, the Nobel prize-winning author, will be reading from her long-awaited novel, Paradise.

Space craft. The new Audi A8 Avant. Never, in the history of estate cars, have so many technological advancements come with such a generous amount of space.

TOMORROW. CRICKET: Avon League, Lord's, Middlesex v Glamorgan. RUGBY UNION: Allied Dunbar Premiership First division, Enfield v Harlequins (3.0).

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM. An evening with Toni Morrison. Please book me... tickets at £10 and/or... tickets at £7.50 (ones) for The Times/Dillons Toni Morrison Forum.

Britannia make for se... Llangeinor trends new... SPECIALISTS... RACELINE... 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 120.

كندا من الاصل

'Do you treat the two sexes just the same? Or like two different species? Males from Mars, females from Venus?'

Britain prepared to make classic case for sexual equality

Let us surf into the weekend on a raft of wild sexist generalisations...

Murless and then a top trainer in his own right. 'When I was a lad, if you treated anything softly, it was because you were a softy...'

It is a deserved one. He trained one of the best fillies that ever raced, Pebbles, who won the 1,000 Guineas in 1984...

He also trained the 1993 winner of the 1,000 Guineas, Sayyedati. He has three contenders for tomorrow's race: Cloud Castle, Forum and Wenda...

The military tradition is still a living part of horsemanship. There is a right and wrong way to do everything: men, animals and machines are all part of the machine...

But a troop of racehorses is not a cavalry regiment and trainers seek individual, not collective brilliance. One of the rituals of the racing stable is long and hard grooming...

'I don't like to fuss a filly,' Britain said. 'A filly often gets sour and fretful standing tied up and being dressed over...'

Pebbles used to be impossible at morning exercise, always jumping about and spooking at nothing. Then Britain realised that she was frustrated by the pace of things...

So Britain paired her up with a very decent horse called Com On The Blues, a horse with a fine swinging walk...



Britain, with Cloud Castle, one of his runners tomorrow, has enjoyed great success with fillies. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Wenda would go up the gallops once, sweet as you like. But when she was asked to do it again, she would kick up a terrible fuss.

Britain changed her lad. Not a question of the quality of the previous lad: some horses and people click, and some do not. Ursula White took her over, and there has been no repeat of the once-only stuff.

Cloud Castle has also had special treatment. 'Very light-framed, and she doesn't need a lot of food to get fit. In fact, she's only done one piece of serious work since she last raced.'

But it is a genetic fact that every broodmare contributes as much to every foal as the sire precisely 50 per cent. And raising a filly to greatness is perhaps the most ticklish task in racing...

BBC1 horse racing results table with columns for race name, time, and participants.

ALS horse racing results table with columns for race name, time, and participants.

MEX horse racing results table with columns for race name, time, and participants.

WKS horse racing results table with columns for race name, time, and participants.

Additional horse racing results table with columns for race name, time, and participants.

Llangeinor fixture treads new ground

RACECOURSES come and go in this sport. A field one moment, a sporting arena the next...

Richard Barber's team has been sidelined by waterlogged meetings, but the man-and-tad plaing team will be working overtime at his Dorset yard this morning before embarking for the Devon & Somerset Staghounds fixture.

Joe Tizzard will have ridden promising Charlie Strong and Moving Earth for the stable's father's owner, Roger Penry, believes the five-year-old is a better prospect than his other former Earthrower.

Waterlogging has struck Welsh meetings particularly hard in the past month but the popularity of the sport in this area is underlined by an entry of 366 in nine races.

HEXHAM

- THUNDERER 2.20 King Of The Buren. 2.50 Hand Of Straw. 3.25 Moss Pageant. 4.00 Pinus Major. 4.35 By Crickley. 5.10 Dockmaster.

HEREFORD

- THUNDERER 2.15 Cordial Knight. 2.45 Wade Road. 3.15 Decoupage. 3.50 Boro Hill. 4.25 Prairie Minstrel. 5.00 Radio Days. 5.35 Sau-Mynde.

2.15 YORK FABRICATIONS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

- 1-45 CLASSIC ENLIGHTENED (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington. 1-46 MERRILLS MANOUELA (F) 5y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington.

2.50 ROOSTER COMPUTERS MAIDEN HURDLE

- 1-01 GATED GILBERT (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington. 1-02 HADIT OF STUBBY (F) 9y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington.

3.25 GILBERTS SIBARI AND SANGYONG TANT PIS HANDICAP CHASE

- 1-04 UNCLE BERT (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington. 1-05 MOSE PRESENT (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington.

3.50 MCDONALDS HANDICAP CHASE

- 1-011 DEPT OF HONOR (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington. 1-012 PARADOX (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington.

4.00 NORTHUMBERLAND BOYS CLUBS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

- 1-2425 WINDMILL (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington. 1-2426 WINDMILL (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington.

4.35 SUBARU HUNTER CHASE

- 1-2221 BALUSTERS (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington. 1-2222 BALUSTERS (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington.

4.45 RICARDO

- 1.45 Ricardo. 2.15 Malhabad. 2.50 Hermes Harvest. 3.20 Royal Piper. 3.55 Scott Gal. 4.30 Win The Toss. 5.05 Hurricane Chance. 5.35 Regal Chance.

5.10 FEDERATION BREWERY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE

- 1-61510 PALACE OF GOLD (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington. 1-61511 PALACE OF GOLD (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

- TRAINERS: L. Langford, 20 winners from 79 runners, 25.3%; M. W. G. Jones, 18 winners from 79 runners, 22.8%; J. R. Johnson, 13 winners from 79 runners, 16.4%; J. S. Taylor, 11 winners from 79 runners, 14.0%; J. P. Williams, 10 winners from 79 runners, 12.7%; J. J. Williams, 9 winners from 79 runners, 11.4%; J. W. Jones, 8 winners from 79 runners, 10.1%; J. H. Jones, 7 winners from 79 runners, 8.9%; J. A. Jones, 6 winners from 79 runners, 7.7%; J. B. Jones, 5 winners from 79 runners, 6.3%; J. C. Jones, 4 winners from 79 runners, 5.1%; J. D. Jones, 3 winners from 79 runners, 3.9%; J. E. Jones, 2 winners from 79 runners, 2.6%; J. F. Jones, 1 winner from 79 runners, 1.3%; J. G. Jones, 0 winners from 79 runners, 0.0%.

RACELINE commentary box with race numbers and results for Newmarket, Haydock, Thirkby, Uttoxeter, Hereford, Hexham, and Brish.

RACING NEXT WEEK

Table listing racing events for Monday through Sunday, including race names and locations.

3.15 ARMY REVENUE FUND NOVICES HURDLE

- 1-121 DECORATIVE (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington. 1-122 DECORATIVE (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington.

5.35 JAIL BREAK NH FLAT

- 1-1 CATHEDRAL BELLE (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington. 1-2 ALTA (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington.

2.50 WATERLID HANDICAP CHASE

- 1-2001 STRATH ROYAL (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington. 1-2002 STRATH ROYAL (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington.

5.35 HURRY EVENING TELEGRAPH MAIDEN NATIONAL HURDLE FLAT RACE

- 1-0 ANATOMY LAD (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington. 1-1 CALIFORNIA (F) 8y 2m 11.1.1. In Wellington.

RACING: NELL GWYN WINNER CAN GIVE BRITAIN THIRD 1,000 GUINEAS SUCCESS

Cloud Castle to tower above rivals

IF Clive Britain sometimes struggles to keep his feet on the ground, now should ever accuse him of having his head in the clouds. The adventurous way he places horses has not, perhaps, won favour with the more supercilious and patronising of racing folk. It has, however, frequently earned him something of rather more substance, as when Terimon took second prize in the Derby at odds of 500-1.



Reid: reunited

Nor is Britain a mere David, taking pot shots with his sling. In fact, it is Cloud Castle who is the hero of her victory under John Reid in last month's Nell Gwyn Stakes over seven furlongs of the Rowley Mile, already places her within a whisker of the best in the race. Yet she can also be expected to improve on

that, as she is bred to be suited by this extra furlong (and beyond in due course) and was only making her second visit to a racecourse. She is a wiry creature, but did quicken impressively to beat fillies who now need excuses to retrieve the bigger reputations they brought into that rehearsal. Ashraakat, who finished closest, has the most beguiling action and may prove — like her brother, Elnadim — best suited by sprint distances. When stamina is a doubt, you tend to need the type of horse that can be held up and quicken. By contrast, the well-drawn filly will improve for more of a test and is entitled to improve on her running in third that day. She had been up in her work and many of her stablemates have needed a run anyway, but there is a chance that she will be confounded by

a basic lack of tactical speed over a mile. Exclusive, a disappointing fifth, has evidently shown that sort of dash as ironic, but it would represent a blind act of faith to support her today. Cloud Castle is proven with some cut in the ground and much may hinge on the duration of yesterday's rain. If it did not dry out over the weekend, the going might represent a major obstruction to Cape Verdi, who dominates the market. She showed smart form when trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam at two, prior to her sale to Godolphin and a winter in Dubai. The ludicrous prices on offer presume that she will improve considerably for that head start, and likewise for the step up in distance (which certainly figures on her pedigree). The same going concerns

apply to the other leading juvenile yet to race this spring, Loving Claim. The French raider's trainer, Crisquette Head, has won the classic with Ravinella and Hatoo, but there has not been quite the same air of conviction surrounding this filly. She made all, on fast ground, round the Longchamp turns to win the Prix Marcel Boussac on two — but that may not have been a vintage edition of the race and she may find it harder to dominate over this bleak straight mile, especially from her wide draw. The biggest danger may instead prove to be Shahtouh, who has done well from two to three and could prove a greatly improved performer now that she has been stepped up in trip. Among the outsiders, one to monitor for signs of encouragement is Qilin.

BIG-RACE FIELD TOMORROW

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Details. Includes 3.45 Sagitta 1,000 Guineas Stakes, 4.20 The Mail on Sunday Mile Handicap, 4.40 The Derby, 4.50 The Oaks, 5.20 Cybor World, 5.45 High Demand.

FORM GUIDE TO TOMORROW'S CONTENTERS

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Contenders. Includes 3.45 Sagitta 1,000 Guineas Stakes, 4.20 The Mail on Sunday Mile Handicap, 4.40 The Derby, 4.50 The Oaks, 5.20 Cybor World, 5.45 High Demand.

FORM GUIDE TO TOMORROW'S CONTENTERS

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Contenders. Includes 1.10 Crowthomes Long Distance, 1.40 Crowthomes Swinton, 2.05 Spring Maiden Stakes, 2.35 Colwick Handicap, 3.05 Business Furniture Centre Holdings.

FORM GUIDE TO TOMORROW'S CONTENTERS

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Contenders. Includes 2.10 Crowthomes Home Spring, 2.45 Crowthomes Home Stakes, 3.15 Crowthomes Home Maiden Fillies, 3.50 Crowthomes Home Handicap, 4.20 Crowthomes Home EBF Maiden Stakes, 4.50 EBF Market Place Novice Median.

NEWMARKET TOMORROW

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Details. Includes 2.00 Quiet Assurance, 2.35 Scint of Success, 3.05 Midge Line, 3.45 Jibre (nap), 4.20 Fire Dome, 4.50 Dantesque, 5.20 Cyber World, 5.45 High Demand.

NEWMARKET TOMORROW

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Details. Includes 3.05 R. D. Davison Pretty Polly Stakes, 3.45 Sagitta 1000 Guineas Stakes, 4.20 Institute of Directors/Birkett's Rated Handicap, 4.50 AHS Handicap.

NEWMARKET TOMORROW

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Details. Includes 2.05 Spring Maiden Stakes, 2.35 Colwick Handicap, 3.05 Business Furniture Centre Holdings, 3.45 Sagitta 1000 Guineas Stakes.

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COURSE SPECIALISTS

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Winner, Odds.

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Vertical advertisements on the right side of the page, including 'ALS', 'I', 'attl', and 'tre Berl'.

Chancery Division

Law Report May 2 1998

Court of Appeal

Requiring disclosure of trustees

Plaintiff let down by solicitors

Murphy v Murphy

Before Mr Justice Neuberger

[Judgment April 1]

The equitable jurisdiction of the court could extend to requiring a defendant to disclose to a plaintiff the names and addresses of trustees of a discretionary settlement...

Grant and a jury of offences of

affray, contrary to section 3(1) of the Public Order Act 1986...

and of common assault, contrary to section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988...

The defendants had been arrested in respect of an earlier incident, in a restaurant where a video camera had recorded the resulting fracas...

Henderson v Temple Pier Co Ltd

Before Lord Justice Beldam and Mrs Justice Bracewell

[Judgment April 23]

On a true construction of section 14(3) of the Limitation Act 1980 a plaintiff was fixed with constructive knowledge which her solicitors ought to have acquired...

Regina v Duffy

Before Lord Justice Evans, Mr Justice Curtis, Mr Justice Forbes

[Reasons April 7]

Where a physically handicapped witness could be understood by only one person who interpreted in a video-taped police interview...

Allowing witness to see video-taped evidence

Regina v Roberts (Michael)

Regina v Roberts (Jason)

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Brian Smedley and Mr Justice Thomas

[Judgment April 6]

The increasing availability and use of video taped evidence in criminal trials merited consideration with a view to devising a code of good practice...

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE

giving the judgment of the court, said that Mr Bassra's submission highlighted a problem of practice which might well be of some significance...

coaching him so as to encourage

him to alter the evidence originally given. The acid test was whether the procedure adopted in any particular case was such as to limit the resulting evidence...

Interpretation of witness's evidence admissible

within section 23(1) of the 1988 Act and was therefore admissible as first hand hearsay evidence and although most of the evidence given by Mr Coyne was incomprehensible to all but Mr Evans...

ALFA ROMEO, BMW, AUDI advertisement with car models and prices.

CLASSIC CARS advertisement listing various vintage models.

CONTRACT HIRE advertisement for various car models.

FORD advertisement listing car models and specifications.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for luxury vehicles.

MERCEDES advertisement for premium cars.

Scotts Audi advertisement featuring Audi models and dealership information.

CLASSIC CARS advertisement for a motor show.

FERRARI advertisement for high-performance sports cars.

FORD advertisement for a range of car models.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER advertisement for luxury vehicles.

MERCEDES advertisement for premium cars.

Scotts Audi advertisement with contact details.

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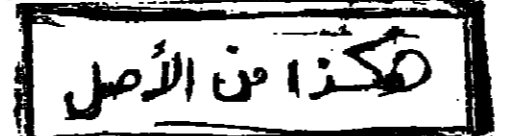
LEXUS advertisement for luxury vehicles.

MAZDA advertisement for car models.

LOTUS advertisement for sports cars.

AMAZING OFFERS FOR BUSINESS USERS advertisement.

Large advertisement for 'Berfirs' and 'New home for vintage sports club'.



سكندرية من الامم



Bentley's first all-new engine for nearly 60 years wafts the Arnage to 60mph in six seconds, helped by suspension that adapts to the driver, along with computer-controlled sports transmission, braking and stability control systems.

Bentley's first-class express

By Jeeves, the first new model in decades is in a different league, says Eve-Ann Prentice

Bentley's first all-new model for 33 years is the strong silent type — and a gentleman to boot. With all the quick-witted discretion of Jeeves, the Bentley Arnage is adept at getting out of tight corners with speed and panache.

The £145,000 car, which was unveiled at a lavish launch in Le Mans last weekend, marks Bentley's first formal collaboration with BMW. The ferociously powerful 4.5-litre V8 turbocharged engine — the first completely new Bentley engine for nearly 60 years — was jointly developed with the German car giant. The Bentley was unveiled as BMW was battling against rival Volkswagen to buy Bentley and Rolls-Royce from parent company Vickers. Experts from Cosworth, also owned by Vickers, were called in to help with the turbocharger design.

The Arnage is named after a tight corner at Le Mans, scene of Bentley's glory days on the racing circuit in the 1920s, and it has that indefinable aroma of money. Open the door to its predictably lavish interior and the warm whiff of leather greets you. Slide into the driving seat, start it, and the response is so quiet that in any other car you would think the starter had not engaged.

Then as you move off, feel the pulling power beneath the four-door saloon's smooth, sleek lines as the engine shrugs off the effort of accelerating from 0-60 in 6.2 seconds. "Our brief was to create the world's most exhilarating four-door driving experience," says Rob Oldaker, the car's project development director.

Even former Formula One world champion and Bentley-owner, Nigel Mansell, and veteran Grand Prix driver Gerhard Berger tried hard to shake the Arnage's complacency as they put the car through its paces at the launch. New double wishbone suspension, computer-controlled sports transmission, braking and stability control systems, and a steel bodyshell that is 65 per cent stiffer than its predecessor all help to give the Arnage spectacular roadholding.

Attention to detail is phenomenal. The suspension adjusts within 1/100th of a second to adapt to the road and the way the motorist is driving, and ignition and fuel injection are individually controlled for each cylinder.

Testimony to the Arnage's road-hugging skills came from one of the potential customers at the launch: "In a new Rolls you can hear the leather creak, and they always tell you it is the hide settling down. In the Arnage there is utter silence and that is because the car is so rigid that the leather doesn't move at all."

The Arnage took three years to develop and is being produced at a new purpose-built £40 million plant at Bentley's headquarters in Crewe. And for the first time in the company's history, the body is to be assembled at Crewe.

Scores of people have already put their names down to buy the Arnage, according to spokesman, Richard Charlesworth. Most are European, but the new model is also likely to find homes in Japan, the Middle East, Australia and America.

Graham Morris, Bentley's chief



Eve-Ann Prentice and veteran grand prix racer Gerhard Berger enjoy the lavishly appointed interior

executive and the only staff member to have a Bentley as a company car, described the Arnage as "the most exciting new Bentley motor car for decades, with all the handling of a coupe in a four-door saloon". Oldaker said: "The feel is of a sharper, smaller and more nimble Bentley."

The car is also 6 per cent lighter and 13.5 per cent more fuel-efficient than the Turbo RT which it replaces, and which ceased production last December.

To mark the launch, 50 owners of older Bentleys were invited to bring along their venerable Cricklewood, Derby and Crewe-built machines and take turns with 50 new Arnages to lap the Le Mans circuit.

The swelling of pride in the breasts of the owners of the older Bentleys was palpable as they made repeated circuits of a windy and at times shower-drenched Le Mans. Most dressed for the occasion in period clothes, and some convertible owners offered their passengers car blankets and goggles. Caravan-pulling Citroën drivers gazed in awe at the procession as it weaved along the section of the circuit that takes place on public roads normally closed off for the 24-hour race.

ARNAGE

Engine: All-aluminium twin-turbo 4.5-litre 350bhp V8. Five-speed automatic with sports mode.

Equipment: Driver and front passenger airbags. Anti-trap windows. Traction assistance and stability regulation. ABS brakes.

Air-conditioning. Self-dimming mirrors that dip on selection of reverse gear. Wilton carpets. Sophisticated sound and security systems.

Performance: 0-60 in 6.2 seconds; 60-0 in 3 seconds.

Fuel consumption: Urban 12mpg; extra urban 21.5mpg; combined 16.7mpg.

Price: £145,000.

Sussman who had driven with his wife, Valerie, from England to the race circuit south of Paris in their 1970 Bentley TI. "If you take the new car around corners at 60-70mph, it doesn't move and you don't feel any body roll."

So what else do you get for your money? As with all Bentleys, there are Connolly hide seats, Wilton carpets, veneer woodwork, smooth chromed switches and elaborate stitching. It takes more than 150 man-hours to make a complete set of fascia, waist-rails and trim.

A sporty feel for such a large car comes from a small, thick four-spoke steering wheel that carries the cruise-control switch.

The front seats, with heaters of course, are adjustable on four planes and the driver's seat is memory-linked to the steering wheel and exterior mirrors.

There are 6,500 spot welds on the new Bentley — said to be more than any other car on the market — and a ten-stage painting process.

The sort of person who is likely to buy the new Bentley is likely to own five or six luxury cars, and a quarter will own a yacht. They also tend not to pay for their cars outright, but use some form of contract leasing.

"It's not the drip of HP, just good business sense," says Charlesworth.

HISTORY OF THE FAMOUS NAME

Arnage named after 'absurd' Le Mans race track

WALTER OWEN BENTLEY was the youngest of nine children, and was 16 before he rode in a motor car. When young, his favourite form of transport was the steam train.

Bentley trained as a railway engineer, but while working in Doncaster bought himself a motorcycle and began racing at Brooklands. After taking a job with a cab company he turned to cars and bought himself a Riley.

Before starting his car company in 1919, Bentley designed rotary aero engines during the First World War.

When Bentley first heard of the Le Mans 24-hour race, which was inaugurated in 1923, he thought it was an absurd idea and was convinced no car would finish such a test. Until 1927, cars had to run through the opening phase with hoods erected.

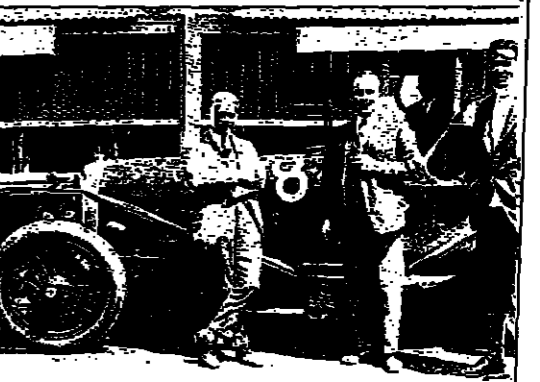
The new Bentley Arnage is named after a tricky right-hand bend on the Le Mans circuit, where in the 1920s cars designed by Bentley built their worldwide reputation by winning the gruelling race five times, the last successive years.

In 1928 the corner was one of Bentley's most taking moments. The legendary Bentley had cut away the remnants of a punctured tyre and continued on at over 70mph until it cracked under pressure.

A wheel change to a spare took three hours — but still managed to finish his teammate Woolf went on to win.

Much of Bentley's activity was fun. He was a millionaire driver, but despite the many triumphs company folded in 1931 and was bought by Rolls-Royce.

W. O. Bentley went to join Lagonda, where engine powered on great cars of the 1930s worked on the coastpost six-cylinder which was developed by Aston Martin's sporting cars of the 1950s.



W. O. Bentley, centre, celebrates the 3-Litre Bentley victory at Le Mans in 1924 along with his winning team.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Sportscar club has new HQ and an expanded programme

New home for vintage sports club

THE Vintage Sports Car Club, that dedicated band of enthusiasts who have kept alive the fun of motor racing for five decades and helped preserve in racing order some of Britain's most historic cars, has moved to new headquarters in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

The 6,200-strong club has also expanded its programme of events, with one of the highlights being a meeting at Silverstone on June 13 to celebrate 50 years of racing at the track which hosts the British Grand Prix.

At its Silverstone meeting last month, cars in action included superb vintage Bugattis, tiny Morgans and specials like Dr Geraint Owen's 1928 Riley, which is powered by a 6½-litre De Havilland aero-engine. But

perhaps the club's most appealing event to drivers is the first of the season, the Pomeroy Trophy in which cars from a 1911 Knox through Le Mans Bentleys to a brand new Porsche Boxster compete directly under a fabled handicapping system.

The VSCC's new headquarters is at The Old Post Office, West Street, Chipping Norton, Oxon O1608 644777.

Bexhill bash

THE BEXHILL Festival of Motoring, held to commemorate Britain's first motor race, staged in the town in 1902, is on tomorrow and Monday. Stirling Moss opens the event and competitors range from dragsters to a collection of rare Elva racing cars produced locally in the 1950s and 60s. Ring 01424 730564 for information.

And next weekend, the Spring Autogamble takes place at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire. Telephone: 01950 612345.

Norton's 225mph Nemesis sparks pitched bike battle

John Naish on the battle of words over a startling British machine

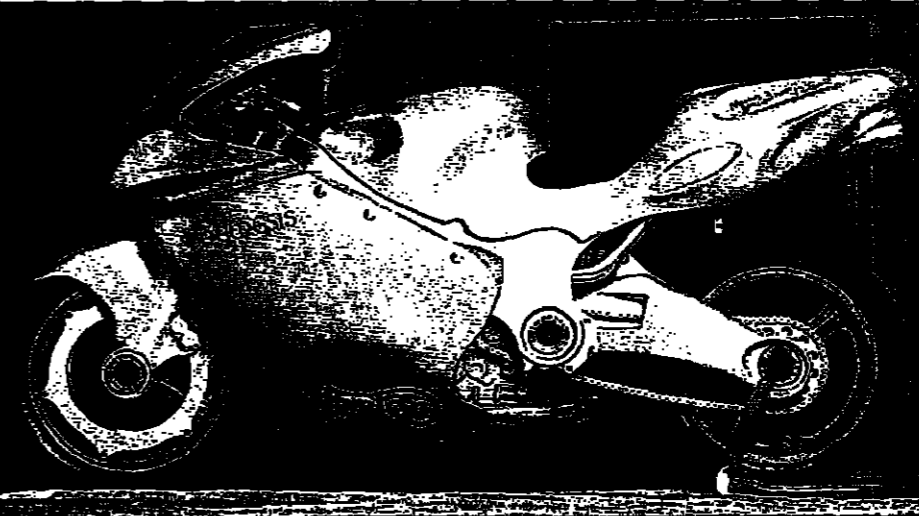
It used to be easy to create a row with a Norton — just fit open exhaust pipes to one of its legendary big 1970s Commando twins and it would rattle windows a mile away. Nowadays it is even easier — you don't even have to turn the ignition key.

The latest episode in the saga of this revered but troubled British marque has unfolded with the launch of Norton's astonishing new V8-engined Nemesis, which the makers claim will hit an unprecedented 225mph and produce 280bhp, almost twice as much as today's crop of rocketship sportsbikes.

But a row has broken out even before the bike — launched as the flagship of a new British-built range — has turned a wheel in anger.

For this machine, launched collaboratively by the Canadian owners of the Norton Motors name and the British-based March firm, is not the only new Norton on the block. When Norton Motors UK went acrimoniously bust in 1995, some of the trademarks were bought up.

German Joe Siefert, who now owns the rights to the Norton name in mainland Europe, is already making his own Norton-badged lightweight motorbike, launched late last year using a Swiss 600cc single-cylinder engine in a specialist-built British frame. The first ten 115mph bikes have now been completed to celebrate the marque's centenary this year. Thus was the stage set for a battle of the



Newly launched Nemesis looks the part but its German counterpart is scathing

are currently less clear, however. "Special tyres are under development with a manufacturer we cannot name," Mellings says. "All the engines for the new Norton range, which will include a 1,500cc V8 cruiser and four-cylinder 900cc and 750cc sportsbikes, are under development, and

we have already run two engines — including the 750 version — though I don't want to go into it more than that."

To the relief of road-safety campaigners, Mellings acknowledges that the Nemesis is planned as a headline-grabbing piece of exotica to emphasise Norton's techno-

logical skills and reflect glory on to the rest of its new range, which will revive famous Norton names such as Manx and Commando. "We want to launch the company with the first bike to break the 200mph barrier. But I don't envisage anyone opening it up on the streets — it is going to take

pride of place in garages and boardrooms used to zap down to on Sunday mornings also be a great investment.

Current European rules enable countries to register a bike producing more than 1800cc an EU spokesman says. The French government of Transport says no problem with a 2,000cc producing nearly 300hp that much — so put Nemesis on the road the ultimate test of the and counterclaims.

But Norton International faces a tough task in its fight for this frontier-breaker. Bob Haynes, manager of the old factory at Shenstone, the new bikes are assembled, says: "That could mean a lot of which is great, but I learn wants to get into it by September. I might take a year, ready, however, an would be pushing it."

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long

HENRY FORD LIKED THE LOTSWOLDS SO MUCH HE BOUGHT A COTTAGE IN CHADDERTON, DISMANTLED IT AND HAD IT SHIPPED HOME AND REBUILT IN THE U.S.

DESPITE THEIR CONSIDERABLE AGE, ALL 600 OF LONDON'S FINANCIAL ROUTEMASTER BUSES ARE FITTED WITH CHRYSLER CONVERTERS.

THE NUMBER PLATE T42 WAS ONCE OWNED BY A DORSET-BASED TEA COMPANY.

FERRARI IS THE ONLY MAKE TO HAVE CONTESTED EVERY F1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1950.

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Don't miss the float.


Deadline for applications is 12 noon, Thursday 7 May 1998.



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ROCKED 60

Savers stunned when accounts are changed

WEEKEND MONEY

NO REGRETS 58

The couple whose windfall will ring wedding bells



Home income plans were tainted by scandal in the 1980s. Karen Woolfson looks at their re-emergence

If you cash in on your home, do it safely

Elderly people are being tempted back into home income plans despite the scandal over risky schemes sold in the late Eighties which left thousands of pensioners burdened with debt.

Home income plans help retired people to unlock cash from the value of their homes to pay for repairs or to help with bills. A number of different schemes are suitable for varying circumstances.

But rising property values mean that there may be as much as £900 billion of equity that could be unlocked from people's homes. At the same time, the number of elderly people living on small pensions and limited savings is increasing. For these, the chance to raise some money from their homes could mean a much-improved standard of living.

However, many are deterred by the fear that they will leave less to their families when they die, though home income firms say they receive most inquiries from children concerned about their parents' lack of cash.



Window of opportunity: Life changed for Leonard and Joan Clark

Six years ago, Leonard and Joan Clark had big financial worries. They were struggling to maintain their maisonette in Surrey and to pay the service charge bills on a state pension of around £93 a week. Mr Clark said: "We were left with nothing for entertainment, going out to dinner or going on holiday, and running a car was proving very expensive."

Q How did the home income plan scandal happen?

A The home income plan scandal caused incalculable distress to thousands of pensioners, many of whom died before receiving compensation. For many, the struggle for restitution goes on.

Some of the most high-risk types of plans have been outlawed. Investment bond schemes, banned in 1990, promised enough income to pay off the interest on the loan and provide an income for life. These schemes were sold by financial advisers who arranged for clients to take out mortgages from building societies. The cash from these loans went into investment bonds supposedly designed to pay an income and cover the interest on the debt.

Q How can I protect myself if I want a home income plan?
A Safe Home Income Plans (SHIP) was launched by a group of four specialist groups in the aftermath of the scandal. Its members include Stalwart Assurance, Allchurches Life, Home & Capital Trust and Carlyle Life who drew up a code to protect investors from fear of losing the roof over their heads or finding their income dwindling to a pittance. SHIP was

Q How do home income plans work?

A The three main types of plan are: reversion schemes, annuity-based schemes and shared-appreciation mortgages (Sams), the newest type of scheme. Some involve giving up all or part of the ownership of your home.

The older you are, the greater the benefits from the scheme. A number of mortgage lenders, including Halifax, also offer equity-release schemes, giving loans of 15-30 per cent of a property's value.

Q Will I get tax relief? Could my benefits be affected?

A Those taking out home income plans receive a special concession allowing the Miras on the interest charged on the first £30,000 borrowed; this amount is doubled for joint applicants if they are both at least 75. In addition, borrowers receive Miras at 23 per cent rather than the decreasing rate (10 per cent from April 6) available for mortgages to purchase a house. If you receive income support or council tax benefits, these may be reduced or even lost.

■ Allchurches Life: 01452-334 973; Carlyle Life: 01222-371 726; Investors Compensation Scheme: 0171-628 8820; Ship/Hinton & Wild: 0181-390 8166; Stalwart Assurance: 01306-876 581.



Join the club: Max and Marion Greene wanted cash upfront

Turning asset to cash

Max Greene lives with his wife Marion on Hayling Island, near Portsmouth. They took out the Home & Capital Reversion plan two months ago in order to raise a big lump of cash upfront to splash out in their old age.

Mr Greene said: "You can put your money into property, the value can increase and you don't have to pay capital gains tax on it. We have a beautiful asset - our house - and have done the reverse of mortgaging it." They have converted their fixed asset, their house, into a current asset, cash.

Mr Greene adds: "Suddenly we're loaded. We're done with saving, we're too old for that." The Home & Capital scheme gives them four big lumps of capital rather than a monthly income and was calculated according to the £140,000 valuation of their bungalow.

Receiving an income after assessing the odds

John Cusson was 81 when he and his wife decided to take out a home income plan eight years ago. He had a lot of capital tied up in his four-storey terraced house in Chelsea worth about £500,000, but not enough of an income to afford a comfortable retirement.

He was keen to retire completely from his freelance work as a business consultant, however, his small pension from a permanent post he had held in an Australian consultancy group for 14 years did not provide for the type of living standard he wanted.

He discussed this problem with a friend: "I told him my house was worth a bob or two and that it seemed a pity to live on a small income when living in a lovely house which we wanted to stay in."

A few months later, Mr Cusson received a letter from his friend who enclosed a brochure about home income plans from Stalwart Assurance. "I rang up Stalwart and arranged for someone to come round to talk to me about home income plans."

Mr Cusson and his wife decided to take out a "reversionary" plan which meant selling off part or all of their property to Stalwart in return for a lease for the duration of the survivor's lifetime. He chose to sell 80 per cent of their property and retain the other 20 per cent to pass on to his siblings, giving them a monthly income for the rest of their lives. His wife has since died but he will continue to receive this income as long as he survives.

Since taking out the plan, his income has varied as it is linked to prices in the property market. He says: "My income has been slowly going up. All insurance is a form of betting, an insurance company is only a glorified bookmaker, you have to weigh up the odds."

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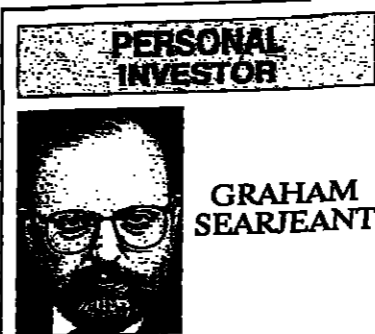
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Bid code needs a facelift

The City Takeover Panel has just celebrated its 30th anniversary. So what, you may think. That would be a fine tribute to the success of the code of conduct for takeover bids that the early members drew up and which directors-general seconded from corporate finance houses still enforce. How different things were before. The law of the jungle ruled, City mafias reigned and the devil took the hindmost — usually private investors. Predators could gain control by private deals or market raids and leave other shareholders to stew or take a lower price.

Contests between rival bidders tended to produce the dirtiest tactics. One bidder connived with the target company's board by selling it a large supply of shares for a small textile wholesaler won about 45 per cent each, setting off a frantic scramble for stock at prices several times that paid to other shareholders. In the rush, more shares were bought than existed.

The code aimed to make sure all shareholders and all bidders were treated equally. Target companies could not unfairly obstruct a bid. But they had time to marshal their defence within a strict timetable that stopped aggressors laying permanent siege. Naturally, it took time to persuade



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

the haughtier City barons to conform, to expand the rules to meet all eventualities and refine them to cover new tricks of the trade. But that was surely done years ago. Actually no. Last week, a basic conflict came up that the code has never properly dealt with. Texas Utilities and Pacificorp were pursuing rival cash bids of \$40p and \$20p respectively for Energy Group up to the last moment when either could raise its offer under the timetable. The bids had been hanging fire for weeks, so the Director-General reckoned games were afoot. Pacificorp might raise its bid half a minute before midnight or sucker Texas into doing the same (raising the exit price on its stake). A like stand-off in the battle for Eagle

Star 15 years ago led the Panel to call for simultaneous sealed bids, but the procedure was not tested. Pacificorp wanted this sudden death approach which might let it sneak in just ahead of its rival. The Panel opted for a subtler scheme: the sealed bids could contain a formula, such as 10p above whatever the other chap says up to a stated limit. This was not tested either because Pacificorp withdrew, to the fury of speculators who bought at 865p.

Other Energy Group shareholders have little to complain about financially. But the Panel's scheme might not work for non-cash bids. It also betrays a tendency to put decorum and City interests ahead of private investors. This was evident in rulings that stop colourful slanging matches and unduly limit target companies' ability to forecast profits. Lawyers would now make them realistic.

The rival bidders issue calls for a dual adjustment to the code to make it more investor friendly. The timetable, which now often has a phoney war in the middle, should normally be shortened by a week or so. In a bid auction, however, the rival should always have 48 hours to reply to any new bid from its rival. A single bid deadline was fine for simpler times but not when so many advisers are trained in war games.

Green fingers keep money growing



Is it time to tap into the growing environmental consciousness among investors who want to combine making money with protecting the planet?

The woman who inspired the greening of the City was Tessa Tennant, head of National Provident Institution's five-strong environmental research unit. The NPI Global Care PEP has been a mastermind has shown an 80 per cent rise in the past three years. £1,000 invested in this PEP three years ago would now be worth £1,800, which puts it among the top performers among all plans.

Marc Campanale, one of the research team, says the outperformance of NPI Global Care is being driven by the evolution of a new growth sector. That includes companies in pollution control, renewable energy, water purification, energy conservation and public transport.

NPI's team use positive and negative criteria to screen companies for their portfolio. They



Spaniards reacted with horror to the sight of dead fish after the Donaua toxic spill

consider groups with a consistently sound record on environmental issues, such as those involved in sustainable resources.

However, like any other sector, some stocks have performed dismally over the past year. Of course, investment managers are not expected to pick a winner every time; it is the overall performance of their portfolios that matters, and NPI's is good.

Other Peps with a strong green team include Jupiter Ecology. One thousand

pounds invested in Jupiter over three years would now be worth £1,761, and over five years it would have doubled to £2,029. Clerical & Medical Evergreen has shown a good performance over the past year, bouncing 32 per cent, but its three and five-year records fall short of its competitors.

Some funds with a PEP wrapper embrace green criteria and other more extensive guidelines to attract investors, such as not investing in companies linked to alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornog-

raphy or animal testing. The Ethical PEP run by Albert E Sharp is one of them. Like many of its rivals, it uses the Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRIS) to screen many of the groups placed in its portfolio.

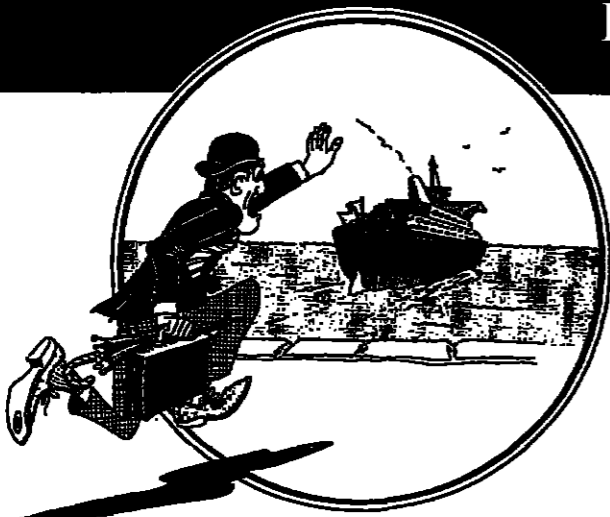
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Getting past the limit



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There are many reasons why people do not put as much as they should, or would like, into a pension. One type of person is someone setting up his or her own business. There is another group, however, who cannot contribute beyond a certain amount to conventional schemes because they are constrained by the so-called "earnings cap". In both cases, however, there are arrangements to suit their needs. People who run their own businesses have more than one pension option: an ordinary personal pension or an executive pension plan. They can even set up their own mini-company pension scheme known as a small self-administered scheme (SSAS).

John Turton, pensions expert at financial advisers BEST Investment, says in many instances an executive scheme is best. "Unlike a personal pension, the amounts you can contribute to an executive pension are not subject to age-related limits. There is greater flexibility. This also applies to an SSAS, but a potential disadvantage is that its assets are pooled, while under an executive pension scheme the investments are individually earmarked which avoids prob-

lems if a business partnership breaks down."

Executive schemes are useful for someone who has been involved in building up a business, taking only a modest salary, and now wants to kickstart their pension. Under a personal pension, the scope for catching up is limited. Age and earnings-related contributions restrict how much can be invested. Under an executive pension scheme, it is the pension that is restricted. There is also a 15 per cent limit on employees' contributions, but there is no maximum on how much employers can put into the plan providing it is calculated in respect of the final benefits. The maximum pension that can be provided under an executive scheme is two-thirds of final salary after 20 years service. The point to note is that it is years of service that count rather than years of membership. So, where someone has already worked for a company for sometime without a pension, contributions can be made to cover this service. Payments can be large, say 200 per cent of earnings in any particular year to make up for the lack of contributions in the past. The cost of making the contributions is mitigated by the fact that the employer's contributions count as business expense deductions against corporation tax or income tax for partnerships and sole proprietors.

John Turton suggests that a company owner approaching retirement may find it more tax efficient to take extra out of his business and put it into an executive pension scheme, thereby reducing the value of his company, rather than claim retirement relief when he sells the business. However, controlling directors cannot manipulate their pension by, for example, bumping up their final year's income. The "final salary" on which their pension is calculated is the average of the best three or more consecutive years income, ending within ten years of retirement. The flexibility of executive pensions can have other tax advantages. Instead of making extra contributions personally, key employees with these schemes could strike a deal with their employer to make a "salary sacrifice" rather than taking, say, a bonus or a pay rise. If the employer puts the money into the pension scheme, this can have benefits for both of them because there will be no National Insurance contributions to pay. The employer should be agreeable to splitting the gain, thereby

boosting the pension contribution and saving money. But it is not only company owners and high-flying directors who can gain from executive pension schemes, John Turton explains that wives employed in their husbands' businesses can also benefit. "Even if a wife has only been paid a very modest salary, her contributions will qualify for tax relief and the contributions made by the business will be tax deductible. If her husband is self-employed, she will not be considered a controlling director so her salary can also be increased in the year prior to her retirement in order to provide her with a reasonable level of pension."

Although they operate under different rules, the changing structure which most companies use for their executive plans is the same as for their personal pension policies so there is little to choose from in that respect. A survey of executive pension schemes is in this month's *Money Management* magazine.

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There's gold down among those dustjackets

Karen Zagor takes a trip to her local antiquarian bookseller

Anyone who was lucky or smart enough to buy a copy of Ian Fleming's *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* when it was first published in 1963 could be sitting on a gold mine. A presentation copy of the book recently sold auction for £2,990.

Crime and spy fiction are just two of the areas popular with book collectors. Books need not have an established pedigree to fetch high prices. If a new author attracts a cult following, it is not unusual for the price of a first book to increase tenfold in only a few years.

The two most important factors in determining the value of a book are desirability and rarity says Felix Pryor, manuscript consultant at Phillips Auctioneers & Valuers. "It is a combination of the two. A Shakespeare first folio is not that rare, but it is extremely valuable. You can also find books that are extremely rare but no one gives a fig about them," he said.

Canadian writers are suddenly finding that the book collecting world is interested in them, following the success of Canadian authors on the international awards scene, such as last year's Orange prize for Anne Michaels's *Fugitive Pieces* and the previous year's Pulitzer prize for Carol Shields's *Stone Diaries*. Demand has also been helped by the popularity of the film of Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient*.

A first edition of *Fugitive Pieces* is about £250 (£175). It was only

published two years ago, but started winning awards quickly, so the price reflected this.

A collection can be a treasure trove, provided the books have been treated tenderly. Anything that mars or defaces them will reduce the value. A first edition is not the place to scribble your thoughts on the meaning of life, unless you happen to be famous. "It depends on who has annotated the book," says Mr Pryor. "Coleridge was a famous margin scribbler. Someone said that if you lent him a book you would get it back fully annotated. In that case, it would also be worth more."

There are people who buy two copies of books - one to read and one to save in a pristine condition. The only time condition is less important is when someone wants to buy something that was owned by a famous personality. For them, the fact of previous ownership can be more important than the book itself.

In order for a book to be worth collecting, it should be the first printing of the first edition. Other first editions are generally worth less. There are some exceptions.

For example, a fourth edition which includes new revisions by the author could be worth more than the first edition. But most of the time the very first edition of a book is worth the most. The edition can be found on the back of the title page.

The life of the book collector has been complicated by the recent practice of simultaneously publishing books in different countries. A North American first edition of a Martin Amis book will not be worth as much as the first edition by the originating publisher, so you have to make sure that you are buying a first edition of the original.

A book does not have to be printed in hardback to be valuable. There is a growing trend to skip the hard-cover stage and publish first editions in softback, particularly when there is concern about how well the book will sell. A limited printing of a first edition paperback will be as valuable as a similar print run on a hardback first edition. The deciding factor is the book's popularity, and the size of the initial print run. Above all, the book should be in good

condition. Every blemish reduces its value. Anyone contemplating starting their own book collection should follow the following tips.

- Treat dust jackets with care. A book without a dust jacket is as valuable as a piece of chipped china.
- Don't store books near heaters or in sunlight. The heat will dry out the books, and can cause disfiguring brown spots. Sunlight will fade the binding.
- Don't store books in a damp place. The pages can get mouldy and the book warped by the moisture.
- Do not turn down the corner of pages to mark your place or write in the book.
- Avoid storing pieces of printed paper in books: the print can leave stains on the pages.
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Browse at will in old bookshops but the two most important factors are desirability and rarity

Company charge cards honed for small firms



Are company charge cards the preserve of status-conscious big businessmen or can they make sense for a small business? Fear of excessive spending by rogue employees has resulted in many small employers spurning company cards, but the card companies are fighting back with promises of security and business benefits.

Danny Bowers, managing director of MoneyWorld, the internet information provider, is typical of a small businessman who is considering taking out a company card for himself and three employees. His company has grown to 12 employees, who until now have been using their own personal credit cards to make purchases which they then claim back off the company.

Mr Bowers said: "I've had individual executives spending money on a regular basis on their own cards, for things such as stationery, travel and computer components, and then finding that they have a cashflow problem at the end of the month."

Mr Bowers says the inducements on ordinary credit cards, such as Profile points on Barclaycard or Air Miles on West cards, are not rele-

vant for his business. "What I am looking for is better management information, so that I know at a glance that if a total of £10,000 has been spent, I know who has spent it and what it has been spent on. It will give me more control over my business."

NatWest has recently launched a combined credit and charge card for businesses, which sets individual credit limits for each user and identifies expenditure by section or by division, aiming to keep expenses under control. NatWest is one of the few card providers which offers a credit card facility; most high street banks only offer small businesses charge cards, which must be paid in full at the end of each month.

However, the NatWest card is available only to slightly larger companies with turnover of £250,000 or more and costs £35 per card per year. Interest is charged at 17.3 per cent on purchases, compared with the 22 per cent on most individual credit cards.

More typical for small businesses is the company Barclaycard, a charge card which has the company name embossed on the card and which requires that balances be paid off by direct debit within seven days of the end of the month. The employer is charged £28 per annum for each card issued, or £6 per card plus 35p for each debit.

But what about the risk of unauthorised spending by a rogue employee, which could land a small business with crippling bills? NatWest and Visa are both keen to reassure small businesses that so long as certain procedures are followed, employers will be indemnified against losses.

NatWest head of commercial cards Sarah Allen said:



Charge cards could be a popular accessory for builders in future

"Unauthorised spending is a big risk but in reality is not a big risk. We are able to offer a liability waiver for business, which is underwritten by a Lloyds policy."

Company cards can also contain bars which limit expenditure to business areas and can block spending in many retail outlets.

Visa says that another fear for many small businesses is that a company card will create records open for inspection by the taxman. But John Chaplin, Visa International's senior vice-president, said: "We are finding now that tax avoidance is no longer a big issue and that the benefits a card gives in the way of working capital outweighs that fear."

A flood of cards targeted at specific types of small busi-

nesses is expected after the successful launch of a Royal Bank of Scotland card in partnership with Jewson, the builders merchant. The card gives small businessmen an ongoing credit line at Jewson at a bank overdraft rate rather than the standard credit card APRs of around 20 per cent.

Mr Chaplin said: "It's a trend coming over from the USA. Small businesses want benefits tightly targeted to their own business."

Another benefit that is currently the preserve of big businesses is the provision of VAT accounting and reconciliation on card statements, but that, too, is expected to be available on small business cards within the next couple of years.

PATRICK COLLINSON

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Sara McConnell has good news and bad news for homebuyers

London house prices falling? Well, sort of



No, only joking, they haven't actually fallen that far yet. London house prices were last at these levels in 1971

Should homeowners be bracing themselves for another recession? This week saw further warning signs that the manufacturing sector is struggling against the handicap of the strong pound, the domestic economy is slowing and business confidence is lower than at any time since the depths of the last recession.

At the same time, the Nationwide, the largest building society, published figures showing a downturn in price rises in London, which has been leading the housing recovery. The capital recorded rises of 15 per cent in the first quarter of this year, compared with 23 per cent six months ago as buyers refuse to pay inflated prices. There is still a shortage of property for sale and fewer properties are changing hands now than last autumn.

Paul Sanderson, head of research at Nationwide, said "a slowing of the economy is inevitable and the impact will not be confined to the manufacturing sector. The outside possibility of a 'hard landing' for the wider economy remains a risk to the market this year."

So could homeowners be in for a hard landing as well? And what can they do to protect themselves from being over-exposed if the worst happens?

Q I'm thinking of buying my first home but should I be getting on the housing ladder now if the market's turning down?

A Many of the first-time buyers hardest hit by the recession of the late 1980s bought just as the market was peaking. When the bubble burst they were left with studios and starter homes they had bought at inflated prices and could not sell. At the same time, interest rates nearly doubled in a year. But housing experts say a replay of this scenario is very unlikely. Ray Boulger of mortgage adviser John Charcol says:

"There is no serious possibility of a bust. The key difference is that interest rates are low and likely to remain low. High rates caused the last housing recession."

The recovery of the last two years has also been patchy, with some regions seeing prices struggle to rise above the rate of inflation and talk of a boom has been exaggerated. Mr Sanderson, of the Nationwide said: "To get a bust you need a boom." Prices have only just risen to the peak they reached in the late 1980s and then only in London. In some areas such as East Anglia, prices are still 20 per cent below their Eighties peak.

Q But if I buy now, won't the value of my property fall if prices are falling?

A Prices are actually still rising steadily, although not nearly as dramatically as they did in the late Eighties. In 1988 they rose 26 per cent in the year. Nationwide's latest figures show average prices across the UK rose by 12.7 per cent between the first quarter of 1997 and the first quarter of this year. Prices in London have soared because there is a shortage of property for sale, meaning demand has outstripped supply. London also attracts international buyers prepared to pay top prices. But many buyers are refusing to pay what sellers are asking and this should encourage more sellers to put their homes on the market rather than hold back in the hope of getting a higher price, which should in turn create a more sustainable market.

Q But what happens if prices start falling? Is there a risk of getting caught in negative equity?

A Potentially yes, particularly if you have borrowed a very high proportion of your property's value. Negative equity, where your property is worth less

than the value of your mortgage, affected hundreds of thousands of borrowers in the early Nineties. Many were first-time buyers who had mortgaged themselves to the hilt to get on the housing ladder. But in the current climate, the risk of getting trapped in negative equity is minimal, partly because lenders are still rising and partly because lenders are much more careful about how much they lend. Most will not lend more than 95 per cent of the value of the property and the few who do will check out your credit-worthiness very thoroughly. Patrick Bunton, of mortgage advisers London & Country, says you should only go for a 100 per cent loan if you plan to stay in the property at least three years. "Don't look on a purchase as a punt but as somewhere to live. In the late Eighties property was an investment. Now that cycle is broken."

The larger you deposit the more of a cushion you will have against the possibility of negative equity.

Q Is it true that interest rates will fall rather than rise in the next few years?

A All the signs are that base rates, and thus mortgage rates, will start to fall this year and the introduction of a single currency should push UK interest rates downwards to match those of the rest of Europe. If rates stay low or fall, this should inject further confidence into the housing market. Fierce competition between lenders for borrowers' custom has forced rates down to historic lows. According to the Council of Mortgage Lenders, first-time buyers are spending just 14 per cent of their salaries on their mortgage costs compared with 25 per cent when interest rates were at their peak in 1990.

A large majority of borrowers now fix or cap their rates to cut costs and protect them from interest rate rises.

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Identify

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Reject Fidelity

Government must

Serps millennium

THE WEEK

Marianne Curphey examines the pros and cons of paying for financial services by commission

Identifying sins of commission

The next time a financial adviser appears very keen to recommend a product, ask him how much of an incentive he is receiving from the insurance company. It could be that the product provider will pay him a handsome fee for signing you up — and the cash to reward him will come out of your pocket.

Independent financial advisers do not always live up to their name, nor do they always put the interests of their clients first, according to claims made this week.

There has long been a war of words between IFAs who receive commissions from financial services companies, and those who ask clients for a fee for the advice they give and then refund commission they would otherwise have received.

Fee-based IFAs account for only 5 per cent of the market. One fee-based company, Chartwell Investment Management of Bath, has claimed that product providers often temporarily increase commission levels to attract more business from IFAs.

John Briggs of Chartwell quotes the current with-profits bond available from Scottish Mutual, owned by Abbey National, which pays 7 per cent commission to agents, compared with the market average 5 per cent.

Scottish Mutual hit back by saying that its "special offers" to IFAs did not disadvantage the consumer.

A spokeswoman said: "The with-profits fund was established with rules that do not allow Scottish Mutual Assurance to take charges out of it other than by explicit and declared charges. SMA's current special commission offer can only benefit the customer as his benefit can only either remain the same or be improved. If the IFA takes full commission either before or during the special offer, the customer gets exactly the same."

"If the IFA takes the same

percentage or sterling amount of commission as before then the customer gains as the extra commission not taken up is used to enhance the customer's investment. So customers do not lose out but many will gain. It is the IFA's discretion as to how much of the available commission he takes and how much he gives up. All commission is fully disclosed to the customer by the IFA before the sale and by SMA after the sale. If the customer is unhappy with the commission he can and should discuss this with his IFA. SMA is operating in a very competitive market and unlike some competitors, we are open about our commission offers.

"Varying the payments to the intermediaries is one of the most common forms of sales promotion and exists in all industries. In the case of SMA products, special commission offers are set up so that the customer cannot lose — something that cannot be said of other industries."

Mr Briggs said IFAs who sold unit trusts rather than investment trusts might not be putting their customers' interests first. He said: "More cost effective and better performing investments are overlooked in favour of poorer performing and more expensive alternatives, as they pay a commission."

The average UK investment trust over the last five and ten years has outperformed its unit trust and insurance fund counterparts."

He suggests that one of the reasons for this is that investment trusts do not pay commissions. "Investment trusts tend to be held by institutional investors and sophisticated private investors who realise that they are better value. Investment trusts which specialise in particular sectors are often heavily bought by pension funds and held for the long term."

He believes that the older invest-



Foot in the door: some IFAs seem to behave like old-time salesmen

ment trust companies in particular have done better because their annual charges are lower than average. He cites Foreign & Colonial and Alliance that have annual management charges of 0.5 per cent, compared with the average unit trust charge of between 1.25 and 1.5 per cent. He also likes investment trusts because they can borrow to buy extra shares to increase value — known in the trade as gearing.

He acknowledges that discounts may put some investors off. A discount is the difference between what the trust would be worth if all

its assets were fully topped up, known as net asset value (NAV) and the actual share price, which often lags the NAV.

When the stock market fell out of favour in the Seventies, some discounts on investment trusts fell to 30 per cent, although the current average discount stands at about 12 per cent.

Pensions are another area where he believes self-interest drives some commission-based IFAs to recommend products with high commission charges. He said: "Why do the majority of

independent financial advisers not recommend some of the top-performing pension contracts? Why are companies such as Professional Life, Fleming Investment Trust Pensions, Equitable Life and Winterthur not on the best buy list of most independent advisers?"

He claims to have come across some sharp practice in pension sales. For example, one man found that he was unable to retire at 60 because, unknown to him, his adviser had written the term to 65 in order to obtain the maximum possible commission.

Another client had bought a pension from an IFA that he believed was a single premium product. Instead, the IFA has written it as an annual premium product which allowed him to take out half of the client's investment as charges by classing the one-off payment as the first of 25.

Mr Briggs said that for regular premium products, the commission paid to IFAs on a 25-year term would amount to 65 per cent of the first year's premium. This does not account for the set-up charges and annual fees which the product provider may choose to levy.

So should the product itself be regulated and should a limit be set on the maximum amount of commission payable? The watchdog for investors, the Personal Investment Authority, which regulates the selling of products, believes not.

A spokeswoman for the PIA said: "Some people would be unable to buy a savings or pension product if they had to pay a fee upfront. For some, the only option is to spread the commission charges over several years. If, however, we do spot commission bias we will investigate it."

The PIA also supervises "disclosure", a measure introduced to ensure that charges are fully explained to consumers during the sale process.

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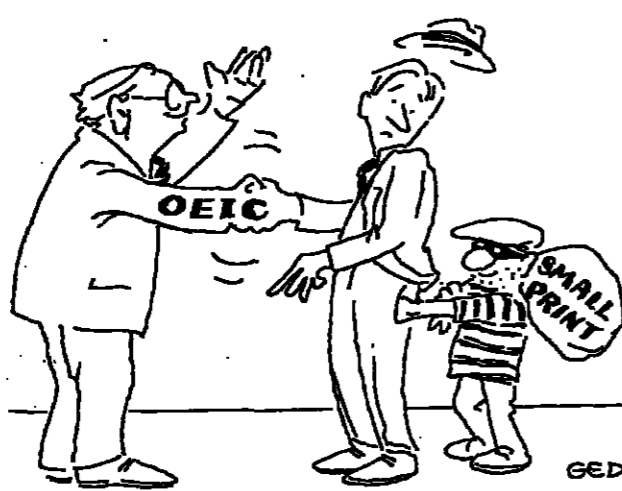
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Reject Fidelity status change

From Mr S. M. Drage
Sir, Fidelity Investments has just sent out to holders of 20 of their unit trusts, including Peps, inviting acceptance of a new structure, namely to change from a trustee status to a shareholding in a fund within an OEIC (an open ended investment company).

Although Fidelity compares the schemes in some detail, they leave it to the small print to contrast the change of status. In my opinion, this change of status turns out to be distinctly adverse. At present, unit holders have the protection of a trust. Under the new scheme, they are asked to share in the losses of other funds within the OEIC.

Obviously this change of status will be detrimental to all unit holders and there appears to be little or no other advantages for them. They should vote against the resolution on June 17. If, however,



the resolution is carried, dissenters will be locked in or forced to sell.

This is not a healthy state of affairs for one of the our leading fund managers to be in, nor for their advisers. They should amend the

scheme and clear their name. Yours faithfully, S. M. DRAGE, 15 St Thomas, West Parade, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 3YA.

Government must stamp on Serps millennium bug

From Mr P. G. Ashford
Sir, Approaching state retirement age I have discovered a frightening condition in the payment of Serps pension payments previously unreported in the many press articles of recent years.

It is the before or after reaching retirement, my widowed wife will receive indefinitely the full amount of my Additional (Serps) Pension for which I have paid with my last-earned contributions. Many widows will already be in this situation.

However, I find, and the Benefits Agency confirms, that this is so only until April 5, 2000. If my demise is on April 4, 2000, or after (as I expect and hope), she will receive only half my Additional Pension. This arbitrary and obscure confiscation of what I have paid for amounts to a reduction in my wife's pension after April 5, 2000, of £2,000 per annum at today's rates!

The Government vigorously and properly attacks the pri-

vate pensions industry for their misdeeds, but who is effectively to bring the Government to task for its own. What is to be done about this second millennium bug? Yours faithfully, P. ASHFORD, 54 Aldershot Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU13 9NT.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. The Times regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Annuity rates mock system

From Mr Douglas Grubb
Sir, There seems little doubt that a continuing fall in annuity rates will ultimately discredit the present system of financing personal pensions and money purchase occupational schemes (Weekend Money, April 11 and 25). What person is going to invest long term for a gross return of only 4.5 per cent and loss of capital?

Ironically, the downward trend in rates may eventually benefit pensioners in that this may prove to be the crucial factor in persuading the Government to swap the profitable monopoly on pension provision now enjoyed by the insurance industry. Already, a 60-year-old man wanting to protect his wife through a joint life annuity would get a better gross return on £100,000 in a building society, and without loss of capital. Unfortunately, under present rules, he is not allowed that option. Yours faithfully, DOUGLAS GRUBB, 52 Hallam Grange Crescent, Sheffield, S10 4BD.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

General Accident and the Royal Bank of Scotland have been ordered to pay a total of £900,000 in fines by Imro, the investments watchdog. Imro said both companies had failed in their role as trustees to two Morgan Grenfell funds at the centre of the Peter Young scandal, which erupted 18 months ago.

Birmingham Midshires Building Society came under attack from its members and Halifax bank on Wednesday over its stalled talks with the Royal Bank of Scotland. The society wants to escape an exclusivity clause it signed last August

when RBS offered to buy it for £630 million. Halifax has since offered £780 million.

About 26,000 Asda employees are to be given £23 million of shares in the supermarkets group this summer as part of the biggest employee share-owning plans ever seen in the UK. Archie Norman, the group's chairman, said that the shares would start going out to workers in July.

General Accident and Guardian Royal Exchange, two of the UK's biggest insurers, both unveiled losses of their expected losses on Tuesday. Severe weather

in the UK and one of the worst ice storms in Canada's recent history are to blame for the companies' forthcoming first-quarter results.

Rivalry between two financial institutions spread from the high street to a small northern football club. The Halifax Town team had not been able to raise sponsorship from Halifax, the local bank that likes to boast of giving a little Xtra help. The chance was seized by Nationwide Building Society, who decided that the opportunity to support Halifax Town Football Club was too good to miss. Halifax 0 - Nationwide 1.

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Patience rewarded after four-year fight



Margaret and Bob Wallage's good fortune could see the pensions industry's estimated compensation bill double in size

An insurance company's offer of compensation to a man mis-sold a personal pension has tripled in size after a four-year battle. The case could encourage thousands of pensions mis-selling victims to challenge the levels of compensation being offered by insurance companies, potentially doubling the industry's estimated £1 billion bill.

Bob Wallage, from Crawley, West Sussex, had his offer of compensation increased from £7,000 to £23,000 after his independent financial adviser, a pensions lawyer and Channel 4's Mrs Cohen's Money took up his case.

Mr Wallage, 63, a former employee of APV, the engineering company, now works at Ifield Golf & Country Club. He said: "When I received the offer I couldn't believe it. I accepted it straight away in case they changed their minds! It's absolutely brilliant."

The insurance company, Lincoln National, admitted Mr Wallage should not have been persuaded to transfer his guaranteed company pension assets into a personal pension. It claimed its original offer of compensation had been carried out "fully in compliance with the guidelines" of the financial regulators.

But in a letter to Mr Wallage in February, Lincoln admitted that if he complained to the Personal Investment Authority Ombudsman or took the case to court, his compensation was likely to be much higher. Two weeks ago they offered him £22,661.59, without admitting liability and emphasising the calculations had still been carried out in accordance with the guidelines.

Ian Williams of Marshall Williams, Mr Wallage's IFA, said: "Obviously I'm

Matthew Wall has a warning for the victims of pension mis-selling not to simply accept what a company offers

delighted for Bob, but equally concerned that there must be many other circumstances where the regulator's guidelines for calculating redress are grossly inefficient. How many thousands of other people must there be who are being under-compensated?"

Graham Chrystie, pensions partner at the solicitors Howard Kennedy, who also challenged Lincoln's calculations on Mr Wallage's behalf, said: "The lesson is that initial offers of compensation should not be accepted by anybody. If you put your foot down and challenge the offer you can get more. The regulatory guidelines for the calculation of compensation are clearly far too flexible. They give insurance company actuaries far too much freedom to make assumptions that favour their employers rather than victims of mis-selling."

The whole idea of the personal pensions review, set up by the Securities and Investments Board in 1994, was that all those who had been sold a personal pension inappropriately should be put back into the position they would have

been in had they not bought the pension in the first place. Ideally, this means reinstating people in their company schemes. Where this is not possible, the insurance company can top up personal pensions to recompense for the loss of company scheme benefits.

However, John Virgo, a barrister who has handled hundreds of pensions mis-selling cases, says: "Most people who are being offered a cash top-up settlement are likely to be short-changed at retirement if assessed under the current regulatory guidelines. The rates at which they assume pension funds grow are unrealistically high. It is time that the regulators revisited these guidelines and changed them."

Ringrose Wharton, a Bristol solicitor representing pensions mis-selling victims, has issued 450 writs against insurance companies. So far, 150 cases have been settled, almost always in the claimant's favour. But no cases have actually come to court, preventing any legal precedent being set. Mr Virgo, who has acted for Ringrose Wharton, believes that if a legal challenge to the regulatory guidelines were successful, the industry's estimated compensation bill could double.

A spokeswoman for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the new financial super-regulator, said: "The actuarial assumptions are designed to be fair and reasonable and are updated on a quarterly basis. We accept that individual circumstances are often unique and that a general formula may not catch all the anomalies. But we have not been presented with any evidence of a systematic failure of the pensions review process. If there is such evidence, we would like to hear it."

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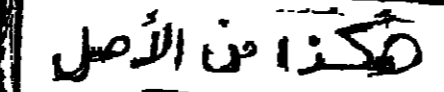
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Following the inheritance tax breathing space afforded in the recent Budget, Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, has issued a guide to IHT planning...

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SAVERS' BEST BUYS table with columns for Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid.

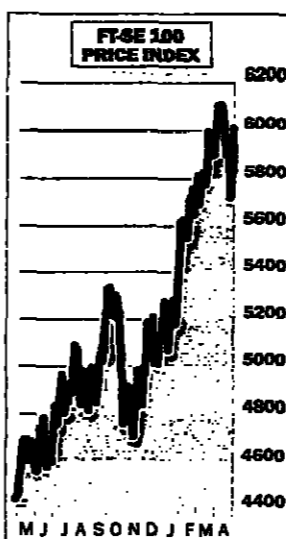
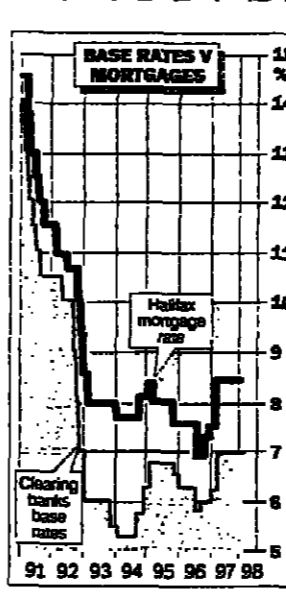
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS table with columns for Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid.

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE) table with columns for Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid.

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS table with columns for Card type, Interest per month, APR%, Fee per annum.

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS table with columns for Personal Loans, APR, Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance, no insurance.

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (0182 500 677)



NATIONAL SAVINGS table with columns for Gross rate, At tax rates, Min/maximum investment, Notice, Contact.

PENSION ANNUITIES

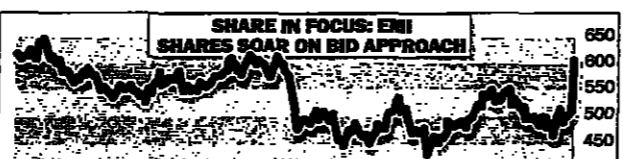
Table showing pension annuity rates for single life, joint life, and first-time buyers.

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Table of guaranteed income bonds with columns for Rates as at April 30, 1998, Investment (£), Company, Standard Rate (%).

PIBS

Table of PIBS (Permanent Interest Bearing Shares) with columns for Fixed Rate, Gross coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, Issue price, Minimum purchase amount.



LARGER LENDERS

Table of larger lenders with columns for Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes.

LARGER LOANS

Table of larger loans with columns for Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Table of first-time buyers with columns for Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes.

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UNIT-LINKED INVESTMENTS

Table of unit-linked investments with columns for Bid, Offer, Why +/-, Why %.

GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE

Table of Guardian Royal Exchange unit-linked investments with columns for Bid, Offer, Why +/-, Why %.

OLD MUTUAL

Table of Old Mutual unit-linked investments with columns for Bid, Offer, Why +/-, Why %.

SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE

Table of Scottish Mutual Assurance unit-linked investments with columns for Bid, Offer, Why +/-, Why %.

AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE

Table of AXA Equity & Law Life Assurance unit-linked investments with columns for Bid, Offer, Why +/-, Why %.

CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE

Table of City of Westminster Assurance unit-linked investments with columns for Bid, Offer, Why +/-, Why %.

ROYAL LIFE ASSURANCE

Table of Royal Life Assurance unit-linked investments with columns for Bid, Offer, Why +/-, Why %.

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO

Table of Standard Life Assurance Co unit-linked investments with columns for Bid, Offer, Why +/-, Why %.

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Seven-year hitch: long-term partners Alain and Catherine are to use his windfall shares profits for a £5,000 Caribbean wedding

No regrets — just fearful of the rain

Alain Baker, a print distribution manager, has no regrets about selling his parcel of free Alliance & Leicester and Halifax shares as soon as he received them last year — the £3,000 windfall will part finance his wedding this summer in the Dominican Republic. He said: "I didn't want to take a short-term risk with the shares and I thought I would get a decent price at the auction. The price of the shares may have gone up since, but equally they could have fallen. I've no regrets."

Alain, and his fiancée Catherine, who work together at Peterson Printing of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, are tying the knot after being together for seven years. More than 20 family and friends will join them for the beach wedding this August, which is likely to cost them more than £5,000.

But Alain has not sold all his shares. He has kept Abbey National shares from issue in 1989 and they have now risen in value nearly tenfold. He said: "I think it's a good idea to keep something back for a rainy day. I just hope it's not raining on our wedding day."

Halifax loses its little extra

Patrick Collinson asks if the demutualisation bubble has burst

Is the £30 billion windfall shares party over? After soaring ahead following their stock market debut, Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich, Northern Rock and Norwich Union shares have taken a pounding. The new retail banks are finding the going tougher than expected, especially as the remaining building societies, led by the Nationwide, are fighting (and winning) a mortgage price war.

Takeover fever among financial stocks is also on the wane. At the beginning of the year speculation was rife that a bidder would pay up to 600p for Norwich Union shares. But the rumours evaporated and the insurer's shares slid back to 420-430p, from a peak of 538p just seven weeks ago. What brokers call the "bid premium" which has driven up the demutualised stocks is starting to fade.

But the picture is not all gloom. People who kept their windfall shares — about half of the shares are still held by small investors — are sitting on healthy gains despite the recent setbacks. Halifax shares are currently trading at around 780p-800p, against the 732.5p obtained by people who sold in last June's auction, though they topped 950p in March.

Alliance & Leicester opened at 554p, soared to 964p and are now around 780p — still a gain of around 40 per cent. Northern Rock, at around 600p is nearly one-third higher than its issue price, and Norwich Union is more than 40 per cent ahead. Trailing the pack is Woolwich, which at around 330p, is only 10 per cent ahead of the price in the initial auction and is trading at below the price struck on its first day of trading in July.

James Hamilton, banking analyst at Credit Lyonnais, sounded the warning bell on

the new banks in February, when he described Halifax's 950p price as "grossly overvalued". Now he says the shares are "only slightly less grossly overvalued."

Mr Hamilton's concern is Halifax's inability to compete profitably against the mutual building societies, which have opened a gap on standard variable mortgage rates and are taking market share. Halifax's

standard rate is 8.7 per cent. Nationwide's is 8.1 per cent.

Mr Hamilton said: "Mortgages have become a highly commoditised product. In the past banks such as Halifax could achieve a margin of 1.5-2 per cent between the price they charged for a mortgage and what they paid out on savings accounts, that margin has fallen to around 0.5 per cent. As the old more profitable business is

rolled over, it is being replaced by low margin business, giving these banks very modest earnings growth over the next three to five years. For that you are being asked to pay share prices of 16-17 times earnings."

Halifax shares would have slid even further but for its £1 billion share buyback — shelling out its own money to buy its shares to support the price. Peter Toeman, banking analyst

at ABN Amro, added: "Last year Halifax had a poor share of net new mortgage lending. Until now it has been in denial about it, but I expect there will continue to be a high level of mortgage redemptions. The reason is the difference in pricing on the standard variable rate. On top of that, the takeover stories are no longer that compelling."

But analysts are more upbeat

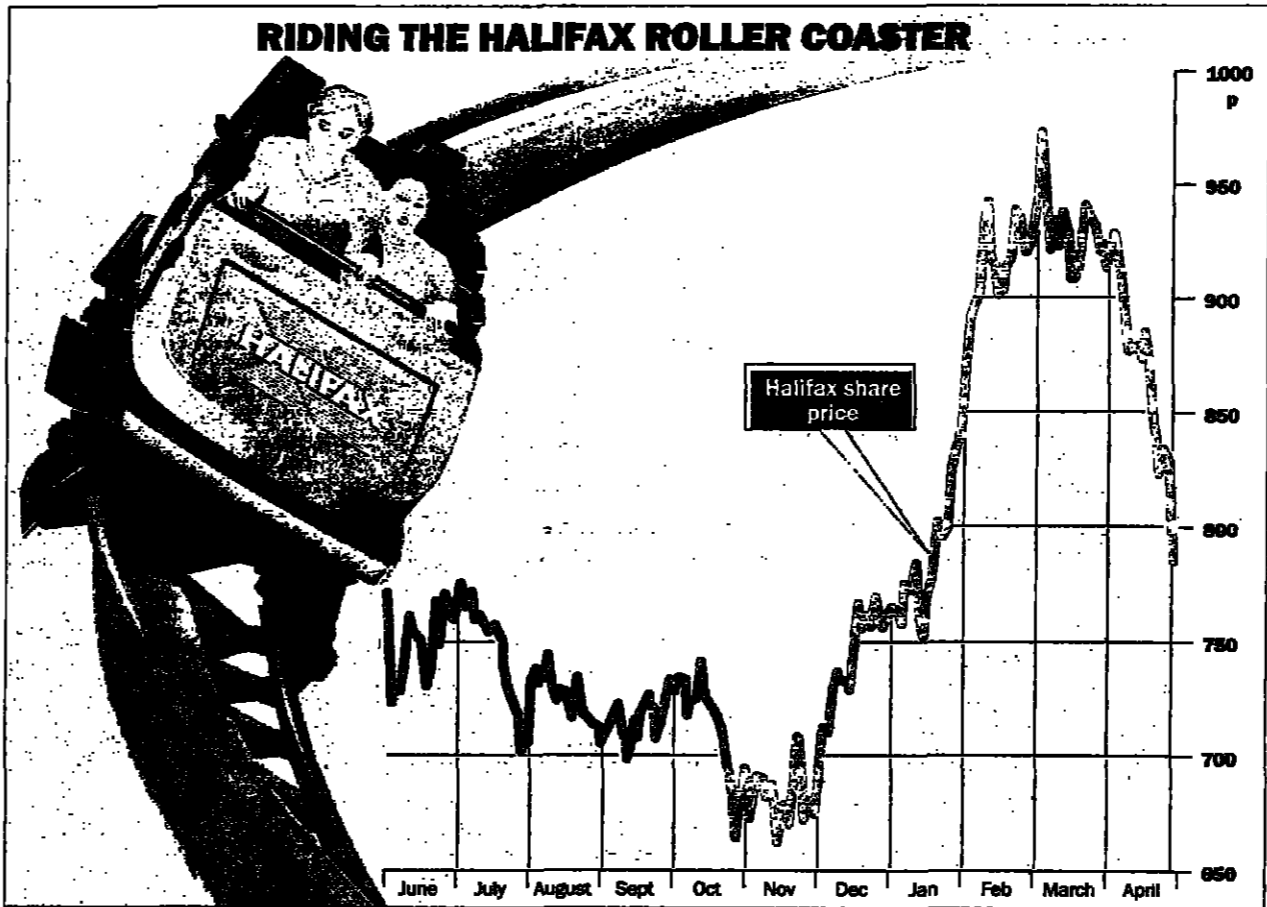
about Norwich Union, the only non-bank among the demutualisers last year. Recent new business figures showed strong growth at the insurer and there is still substantial scope for efficiency cost savings.

Roman Cizlyn, a Merrill Lynch insurance analyst, said: "I still have Norwich Union on my list as 'accumulate'. They are getting on the way to being better run, in the direction of a company like Legal & General, which has produced an excellent track record of growth. A lot of institutions are underweight, which should give it continued support."

If the rollercoaster ride of individual share prices is proving too unsettling for the millions of first-time shareholders, the fund management groups have an alternative. This is to spread the cash over a broad range of shares in a unit trust, giving a basket of investments which reduces the risk of being in one share.

Fidelity Investments, which played a leading role in persuading windfall share holders to PEP their investments, is encouraging investors to switch to its Moneybuilder trusts.

Jane Drew of Fidelity said: "It is extremely risky just to have one or two stocks. We advise people to look at collective investments, especially mid-sized stocks which until now have not risen as much as FTSE 100 stocks." Investors in Fidelity's Moneybuilder range can spread their money, at no initial charge, over four funds: a FTSE index tracker, a corporate-bond fund, a growth fund and a fund of funds. Other investment managers also offer low-cost, broadly spread funds suitable for transfers from windfall shares.



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The art of retiring early

PATRICK REVILLON

Marianne Curphey
looks at some of the drawbacks of going too soon



If your dream is to retire early to paint, it is essential not to leave the decisions too late and to make sure you start your planning early too

A growing number of people are taking early retirement, often through redundancy, in order to realise a lifetime ambition such as travelling the world, or to spend more time pursuing hobbies. Redundancy packages tend to include an extra payment to cover some of the pension rights you will lose by missing out on ten extra years of pension contributions. Making a decision to leave work on your own terms a decade or more before normal retirement, however, requires careful planning. This is because if you take your pension ten years early the annual income from your fund could be reduced by more than half. The penalties for leaving early differ from scheme to scheme, but as a general rule, you will be better off if you leave a final-salary (defined benefits) scheme early than if you leave a money-purchase (defined contribution) plan early. Roger Key, a partner at Watson Wyatt, the actuary, said: "It costs a lot to retire early but you tend to end up with more from a final salary than from a money purchase scheme if you do choose to leave work at age 55. It is still costly, though, because you will miss out on ten years of pension contributions and growth."

For an employee in a typical final salary scheme retiring at 65, the scheme pays one 60th of your final salary for each year of service with the scheme. So for example, if you worked for 20 years and ended up with a salary of £30,000, you would get 20 times one 60th of £30,000. This would provide you with a pension of around £10,000 per annum if you left at age 65, Mr Key said. If you leave ten years before normal retirement date, however, you have only earned ten times one 60th of your salary. In addition, your salary may be lower because you have not yet reached the peak of your earnings potential. Mr Key said: "If, for example, you have earned ten times one 60th of your £24,000 salary, your annual income would be £4,000 if you took it at age 65. If you took your pension at age 55, your annual income would be reduced further. The reduction depends on the structure of the scheme, but you might find it is around 60 per cent lower, which in our example above would give an annual income of just £2,400."

With a money purchase scheme you and the company pay a combined percentage of your salary into a pension fund each month, usually around 10 per cent. That money is ringfenced and when you leave the company you can either let your money in that fund grow or you can take it and buy an annuity. The critical difference between the two is that in a money purchase scheme if the investment does well you enjoy the full benefit of the growth, while if the stock market has a run of bad years, your future retirement fund will take the hit. With a final salary scheme, if the investments grow strongly the company receives the benefit while if they do badly the company pension scheme has to stump up the extra cash to pay your pension benefits. If you have a money purchase scheme pension and you have a fund worth an average £10,000, you will have to use that to buy an annuity when you retire. The cost of an annuity at 55 is much higher than at 65 because you will need an extra ten years of income and you will be drawing on the fund for longer. You will also have lost out on ten years of investment return. Mr Key said: "That £10,000 worth of pension (in the example above) will buy a pension worth about 35 per cent of what it would buy if you delayed retiring until age 65. This is a much bigger reduction than most final salary schemes would impose on an early leaver."

Mr Key said that anyone who intends to retire early "should be paying as much as possible into their pension fund via additional voluntary contributions (AVCs)". There are also free standing AVCs, available from insurance companies. Occupational fund managers have questioned whether because of the high charges, they are of any advantage to consumers. As we reported in Weekend Money last month, controversy has arisen recently over sales of FSAVCs after Geoff Pearson, pensions manager for J Sainsbury, the supermarket giant accused some salesmen of deliberately mis-selling them to employees. He said: "Charges are generally much higher on FSAVCs than AVCs, which means they usually offer poorer value. Some salesmen are clearly not providing employees with enough information about AVCs to enable them to make an informed decision. They are more interested in earning commission on the sale of an FSAVC." He has now written to the Personal Investment Authority, the industry watchdog, asking it to look into the matter. Among others who have also expressed doubts are Jenny Rosser of the British Airways pension scheme, who has contacted Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, about the matter. A survey of pension scheme managers by Bacon & Woodrow, the actuary, found a quarter believed mis-selling of FSAVCs was taking place. Meanwhile, the Government is still wrestling with the problem of how to persuade the majority to save more — or even save at all — for their retirement. A report this week by pension fund administrators suggested that everyone working for a company with a decent pension scheme should be forced to join it. Those who refused to join up should lose the right to ask their employer to contribute to their own stakeholder pension. The schemes also believe that stakeholder pensions would compete with existing occupational schemes, and that administrators might reduce their benefits over time to the lowest level possible.

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BIDDING WARS 50

Graham Searjeant on the rules of the takeover game

WEEKEND MONEY

CARD STATEMENT 53

Is a company card the builder's new fashion accessory?



Northern Rock 'could even have lending licence revoked'



Jenefer Golding is one of the Northern Rock savers who lost out

Northern Rock, the Newcastle bank, faces censure and in the worse case scenario could have its lending licence revoked as a result of the savings accounts fiasco last week which left hundreds of customers worse off.

According to Professor Roy Goode QC, a saver with Northern Rock, the former building society could be forced to stop lending under the Consumer Credit Act if the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) finds that the bank's conduct has been 'deceitful or oppressive or otherwise improper'.

Professor Goode, who is noted for heading the Pension Law Review Committee following the Robert Maxwell scandal, argues that there could be a breach of contract where a major reduction in interest rates is unrelated to base rates and where it was made without notice. A professor of English Law at Oxford University and expert in commercial law, Professor Goode also said that the practice of moving savers to a substantially different account without their approval was 'clearly unfair and improper'.

Professor Goode said: 'The Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading has tremendous power to deal with abuses of this kind. If he finds the conduct to be improper he could rule that they are unfit to engage in the business of consumer credit. The OFT has these powers and in the light of recent events ought to be using them.'

The OFT agreed that Northern Rock's conduct could be challenged under section 25 of the Act. A spokeswoman for the OFT said: 'We are aware of the problems and we are looking at the issue to see if there is a point to be made.'

A significant number of savers have already complained to the Banking Ombudsman. They are particularly aggrieved that the bank has refused an immediate transfer of their savings to a new higher-rate account. Instant Save Direct, when some 89 savers were allowed to move. Northern Rock has since said it made a mistake and would not permit further moves.

Chris Eadie, deputy Banking Ombudsman, said: 'One might say there is an element of unfairness about that. But we have to investigate first. We will look at each case individually.'

Weekend Money has received hundreds of telephone calls, letters and faxes since our story last week that the Northern Rock bank had restructured its postal accounts, reducing the number of accounts from 11 to three. Many investors lost out in the process, seeing their interest rates reduced. Susan Emmett reports.

plained they had been given no notification of the changes and had failed to get through on Northern Rock's special helpline number despite the bank's effort to draft 100 operators to handle its own deluge of calls.

The restructure, which reduced the number of postal accounts from 11 to three, has meant a significant cut in interest rates for many. Those in the former Select 90 account, who had been earning as much as 8.15 per cent, will now receive a top rate of 7.5 per cent in the Select 60. One saver will lose as much as £66 a week after the changes, which affect 200,000 people - 20 per cent of savers.

Savers stuck with less competitive rates were further enraged when they learnt through *The Times* that 89 customers were allowed to transfer without notice to a new higher-rate account, the Instant Save Direct, when the change was first announced.

The bank said it had made a 'mistake' and has since refused to allow any more transfers of this kind. The bank's refusal means it now faces the defection of many of its biggest savers, some with balances of up to £750,000.

Jenefer Golding, a secondary school teacher in Berkshire, is among those who lost out and knew nothing about the changes until she read *Weekend Money* last Saturday.

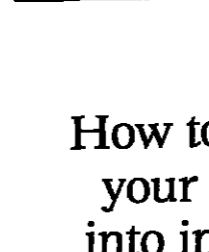
Mrs Golding, who used the former Select 90 to plan for her retirement, said: 'I understood that the bank had undertaken to inform investors before any change to either rates or conditions of accounts and in time to give them the option of moving. This is clearly not happening.'

Mrs Golding wants her deposit transferred to a better paying account and told the bank that she was 'not interested in any platitudes about making the money more accessible'.

INSIDE



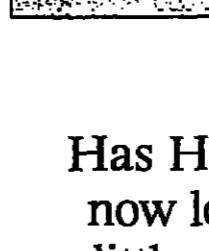
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BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 24-29

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Mis-sold compensation battle won



Wallage: four-year fight

Thousands of victims of the personal pension mis-selling scandal are being urged to get offers of compensation made to them by insurance companies checked independently before accepting.

late Eighties and early Nineties to spurn their company schemes in favour of poorer quality personal pensions offered by insurers. Many are now barred from rejoining their company schemes and are being offered top-up payments for their private pensions. The offers are often couched in complicated technical language, and people need professional advice if they are not to be victims a second time.

Robert Wharton, a partner of Ringrose Wharton, a Bristol legal firm, said: 'I am very worried that people are not getting the compensation they should be - if they did not understand what they were being sold in the first place how can they understand the offer they are being made now?'

Patience rewarded, page 56

Thomson Travel may expand offer as float proves a top destination

More than 500,000 small investors have registered for the flotation of Thomson Travel Group, prompting the travel company's financial adviser to consider increasing the size of the retail offer.

Mr Foster said that all the share shops would endeavour to send out share certificates or notifications of entitlement (with details of the number of shares allocated) by the first day of trading on May 18.



Ulrika Jonsson helped the launch to go with a bang

The Share Centre, based in Tring, is one of the five designated share shops accepting application forms. Peter Foster, a director, said that customers could choose to have a

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Thought for the day

Advertisement for Independent Financial Advisers (IFAs) featuring a teapot and the text: 'We won't pour out advice until we know you.' Includes contact information for IFAP Limited and a form to request an information pack.

هكذا من الأصل

SHOPPING

COUNTRY LIFE

TRAVEL



Men's trunks: how to cover the bare essentials

PAGE 5



Too good for bacon: Alice rests in one piece

PAGE 8



Models who pose with their owners

PAGE 19



Prince's mountain retreat goes up in smoke

PAGE 29

THE TIMES WEEKEND

SATURDAY MAY 2 1998



Gitta Sereny defends her book about Mary Bell, and tells Noreen Taylor that only good can come out of her decision to confront her past

'Mary is one of the loneliest people I know'

As though speaking of a beloved granddaughter, Gitta Sereny says: "I'm worried that Mary may no longer trust me because of what's happened. But she needs to trust me now more than ever. She needs to know she will always be able to rely on me for love and affection."

The author is talking after the week's tidal wave of publicity which has swept the name Mary Bell back into the headlines for killings she committed 30 years ago.

Despite the rancorous public debate, Sereny's confidence in the moral validity of her book, Cries Unheard, remains unshaken. Yet the whole point of her project has been stood on its head. She sought to offer reason, to help us understand why, to provide a dispassionate documentary. Instead, the book has generated the kind of emotion which would appear to have negated the whole exercise.

Sereny nods in agreement. "Yes. Mary is being called a child killer. But she was a child who killed. Children don't kill unless something terrible has happened. They aren't evil people. But now you have

respectable newspapers, as well as the tabloids, saying 'child killer' and that's very worrying." Firing on the nervous energy triggered by the controversy surrounding her book, Sereny is obviously concerned by the mounting hysteria.

Mary Bell is once again a term of abuse. Despite a court order safeguarding her identity, her house was besieged by journalists, and police decided to take her into protective custody, with her 14-year-old daughter. Sereny says: "This little family is marooned, ruined. I don't know what I can do for them. It's just barbaric."

As far as Sereny was concerned, the book would have been launched — noted on news pages and television bulletins. She might have been criticised, applauded, asked for comments — but never in her wildest nightmares could she have imagined the stampede of condemnation and fury that resulted in Bell and her daughter being driven away from their home, hidden under blankets.

Sereny had been confident that Mary Bell would not be exposed. Even a journalist of her experience could not have

Continued on page 2



Gitta Sereny says Mary Bell's childhood was "littered with the most unspeakable horrors. We have to face the fact that she is frightfully damaged"

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Advertisement for Reid's Palace featuring a tropical scene and the text 'Your own corner of paradise'. Includes contact information for Reid's Palace UK Reservations Team.

David Bowker tells everyone how to do their job — his softie brother, his editor, the rude policeman, the vicar and that black magician

Pete packs a punch after all

In the TV series, *Where the Heart Is*, Pam Ferris and Sarah Lancashire play two dedicated district nurses who live in a Yorkshire village. Each week Pam and Sarah come to grips with real-life human dilemmas.

After watching last Sunday's episode, I decided that the writer could use some advice. This placed me in a real-life human dilemma, as the writer happened to be my brother, Pete.

Having been challenged to spend a week telling other people how to do their jobs, I knew there was no way out. So on Monday I visited Pete at home.

"This programme you've been writing for," I said, "do you realise it's for women?" He looked defensive. "It's aimed at a general audience." "Rubbish! It's for softies. There's no gratuitous violence, no car chases and no swearing."

I also pointed out that any programme in which Sarah Lancashire failed to get her kit off was a waste of a fine actress.

That afternoon, I tried to give my commissioning editor at *The Times* the benefit of my sagacity. When he's

working, he has a tendency to slouch in his chair with a fag hanging from his mouth. He's also rude, surly and incommunicative. "Smarten yourself up," I urged him. "Who wants to work for a slob? I know I don't."

"You don't have to," he said. "You're sacked." This cheered me up no end. As I was driving home a policeman flagged me down. "Do you realise what speed you were doing?" he asked me.

"The National Speed Limit," I replied confidently. "Exactly, chum," he sneered. "You were doing 70 in a 30mph zone."

I told the police officer that I wasn't his chum and didn't like his tone. "You're a Public Servant. I'm a member of the Public. Therefore, you are my servant. Kindly address me as 'sir'."

Once had a friend in the Vice Squad who gave me the following advice: "The

SEVEN LONG DAYS

police hate liars. But if a man admits that he's been paying for sex, no copper in the world will charge him."

So as my "servant" wrote out my speeding ticket I said: "Actually Officer, I've been paying for sex." As a result of this admission, I was taken down to the station where a Doctor tested me for drugs and general insanity.

The next day I paid another visit to my brother. I'd decided that his scripts lack toughness because he isn't tough himself. He was the same as a boy.

In those days, I used to encourage him



to punch pillows and head-but walls. When I arrived, I ordered him to head-but his living room wall in the hope of rousing his latent aggression. My brother grabbed me by the throat and screamed: "Get stuffed!" I was delighted. "See? You can do it when you try."

On Thursday I went to a funeral. A sad occasion was made sadder by the poor performance of the Vicar. After the service I took him to one side and told him that his technique left much to be desired. "Stop talking in that singsong Vicar voice," I advised him. "It

doesn't sound holy. It just sounds silly."

He said: "Remove the plank from your own eye before criticising the mote in your neighbour's eye."

"And there's another thing. Stop quoting *The Bible*. It puts people off."

The next morning, I received a strange present in the post. It was a wax doll pierced with nails. I wasn't sure whether it had been sent by the Vicar, my brother, the policeman or my boss at *The Times*. Then I remembered that a few years ago, I annoyed a Black Magician.

The trouble is, the poor man doesn't know his job. To create an effective Voodoo doll, one needs samples of bodily tissue from the intended victim. I wrote to the magician, explaining his mistake and enclosing some hair and nail clippings for his next cure.

After all, it costs nothing to be civil.



'She was offered enormous sums of money by the very people who are now screaming for her blood'

Continued from page 1

anticipated the savagery of the tabloid pack. Until this week, Bell's daughter had not been told of her mother's true identity. "Mary wanted to protect her daughter from her past. I argued with her, told her she was being naive. I warned her that with the publication of the book, the child would inevitably find out. She didn't want her daughter to become the child of Mary Bell. I can't imagine how Mary is dealing with this situation. You see, apart from her partner Jim, she has no one she can trust."

A small woman with a large face redolent of an old priest—wise and unshockable—Sereny, now 74, sits over tea at her book-lined West London flat. Her face is shadowed with concern. "Mary is one of the loneliest people I know, and when it becomes too much for her she takes herself off for long walks, far away from her house, going into some tea room and striking up conversation with a stranger, someone at the next table she knows she won't bump into locally."

"Mary has never been able to have close friends—too dangerous, too much at risk. Consequently, she has built up a core of extraordinary strength to ride her history. Here is the most incredible double life. I can't think how she would have coped without Jim." Now, this week, the poor man has had to watch while a rabble of tabloid journalists invaded his workplace.

Many newspapers have been critical of Sereny despite her impeccable pedigree as a writer, for paying Bell. What then does she say to those parents of Bell's victims who are implacably opposed to Bell receiving money?

She says: "I meant to write to those parents in advance, to prepare them so that they wouldn't hear in a barbaric form. But someone leaked the story, and now those poor families..."

She wrote a letter of apology to June Richardson, mother of Martin Brown, who immediately rejected the apology. Sereny says: "It's sad that she showed my letter to the papers. I feel she is being manipulated. She probably feels angry at Mary receiving money, but I can do nothing about that. Mary needed money to change her life. Anyway, she was offered enormous sums by some of the very people now screaming for her blood."

She is at pains to emphasise that the early reports of the money Bell received were incorrect. "Mary hasn't been paid anything like £50,000. I gave her part of the advance I was paid. How could I not? Since the day she was born she has been used and abused."

Would Bell have co-operated without money? "Ah, that's difficult. I'm not sure. But I can tell you that over the years she has been offered a great deal of money, such as £250,000 from *Stern* magazine. And there isn't a paper in the country who would not have given her a large cheque in exchange for ghost-writing her story."

"What mustn't be forgotten is that Mary chose the most difficult route, the courageous one. She knew how desperately difficult it was going to be. Describing her early childhood was deeply distressing, and I lived through it with her, as did Don. [Sereny's husband of 50 years, the former photographer Don Honeyman.]

"You see, she'd blanked out all these terrible memories... everything. She would say to me, 'I'm so afraid of remembering what I think happened'."

For eight to ten gruelling hours a day, for six months, the dark, tortuous story slowly unfolded. "When she began that journey into her early childhood, one littered with the most unspeakable horrors, describing some of the worst examples of child sexual abuse I've ever heard, it was as though she was facing up to the truth of her life for the first time."

"The details..." she shudders as she pauses. "I spoke to a child psychiatrist to see if they made sense, and he confirmed that they did. For a few months after the unblocking of those memories she was euphoric but I knew it wouldn't last. The burden of what had happened was too heavy to disappear for very long. Inevitably, we have to face the fact that she is a frightfully damaged young woman. Not only by her mother, but by the system."

Although Bell is now 41, the person Sereny describes and talks of so fondly comes across as a misbegotten teenager. "That's because she is. In so many ways, she's like a chaotic child. She's also intelligent, funny, very chatty. She loves chitchat. It's terribly curious about people, and on occasion can be very wise and mature."

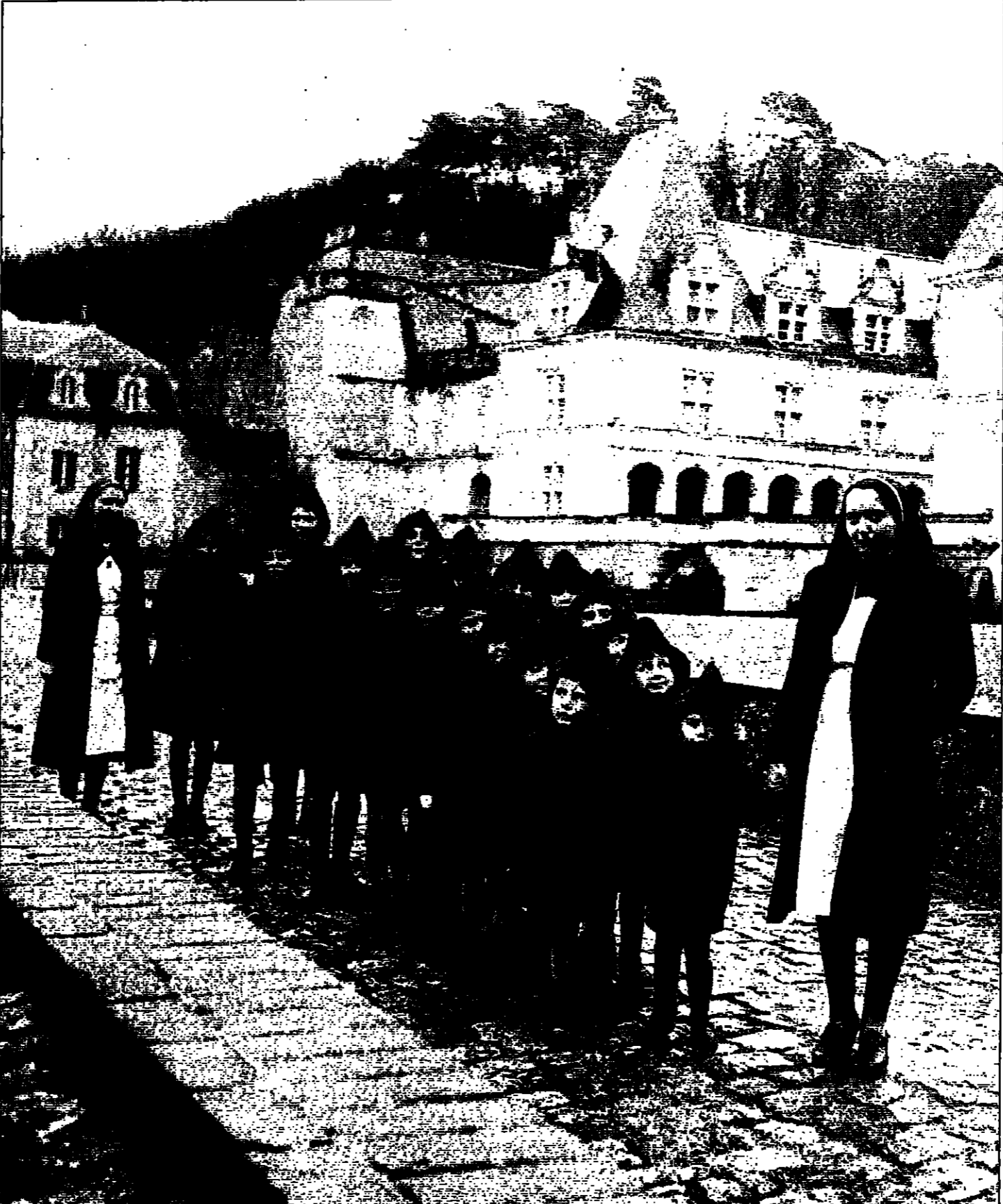
Sereny's fascination with Bell began soon after news of the deaths broke in 1968. Bell, then aged 11, was convicted of strangling Martin Brown, four, and Brian Howe, three, in Scotswood, a deprived area of Newcastle upon Tyne.

She was intrigued by the enigma of an 11-year-old girl described in sensationalist headlines as an evil spirit. To understand Sereny's compulsion for this kind of story, we have to look back at her own life.

She was born in Vienna in 1924, to Hungarian parents, and her teenage years coincided with the rise of Nazism. She lived in France for part of the war, working as a volunteer nurse looking after a band of refugee children, and was caught by the authorities while helping an Allied pilot.

She escaped, made her way to New York, and went on a lecture tour to explain the plight of the children she had left behind. At the end of the war, she returned to Europe to look after child survivors of Dachau concentration camp.

Back in Paris, she met and fell in love with Don, an American photographer with *Vogue* magazine. Two children followed, as did



Gitta Sereny lived in France during the war where she was an auxiliary nurse to refugee children. She was later arrested by the Nazis

a move to London, where they have lived since 1950. Sereny began writing for papers and magazines, and it was one of those magazines that commissioned her to cover the trial of Mary Bell and 13-year-old Norma Bell (no relation).

Norma was acquitted but Mary was found guilty of manslaughter due to diminished responsibility. In 1972, Sereny's book *The Case of Mary Bell* detailed what happened at the trial. Afterwards she kept in touch with Mary Bell's relatives, monitoring her life throughout her 12 years in secret homes and prisons, and then the years of freedom that followed.

Sereny takes infinite care and time with all her projects, helping to create her reputation for being a formidable analyst. Two books, one a study of Hitler's confidant Albert Speer, the other a biography of Franz Stangl, commandant of the Treblinka death camp, have been highly acclaimed. She says: "I felt I was in the presence of evil with Stangl, but never with Mary. She's one of the most honest people I've ever met. Those children she killed were in the room with us throughout the interviews. I don't think

there is a day when she doesn't think of them. She often asks, 'How could I have robbed those families of their children?'

Of course she understands their anguish, especially now that she has a child of her own.

From the first time I sat watching her in court, I knew so much lay hidden, unexplained about this child. Very small for her age, pretty, slim, she reminded me of those children in Dachau.

"A lot of money has been spent on Mary throughout the years—thousands of pounds a week—yet no one has ever looked for a motivation. No psychiatrist has ever sat down for any length of time and tried to look beyond the evidence. From the start I suspected something deeply disturbing had taken place in that child's life but I, too, was ignorant. I kept in touch through the years with members of her family because I felt her trial had been unfair."

"They began to trust me. They spoke of fears, of incidents with Mary's mother Betty, although



Sereny at home writing her book on the Nazi Albert Speer

even they couldn't have imagined the worst. In 1993 an editor at Macmillan asked me if I would write a new introduction to the book of the trial, and I said that maybe Mary might talk, to teach us how such a thing could happen.

"I asked her the first time in 1992 and she said, 'Absolutely not.' But by 1995, her mother had died and I think Mary felt freer then. You see,

was essential that Gitta explain to me what took place.

"No, no," she shook her head, her face screwed up in distaste. "I cannot do that. I'll find those pages and allow you to read them on your own." After reading them I could understand her revulsion. But they are the key to unlocking the reason for Bell's behaviour and, as obnoxious as it is to mention what they contain, it is essential to know what they say.

Bell's mother Betty was a prostitute who specialised in sado masochism. From babyhood, Mary became her mother's prisoner: forced to watch beatings and participate in oral sex with clients. Her enforced presence in this hell increased her mother's fees, since an innocent child's presence was evidently sought after by men.

Betty's husband who, though very fond of Mary, was not her father, did not intervene. Aunts, uncles, grandparents and neighbours all seemed powerless to protect this child.

A few years later, when she was six or seven, she was out on the pavements of Scotswood offering to masturbate men in cars. Sereny says: "None of this was explored during her time in custody. Don't you find that incredible? English suspicion of psychiatry was so prevalent at that time. Although it was the Sixties, it could have been the Dark Ages. It was incredible."

"So I took Mary back, not because I have any training in the psychiatric field, but because she wanted me to help her understand what had happened and why. We spent six months talking."

"It was important for her to get back to her child and her partner each night to regain some sense of stability while taking this perilous leap into the unknown. Believe me, she often tried my patience. She could be rude, rough, sometimes I wanted to take her by the scruff of the neck and tell her to shut up."

"She was never frightening or violent, though when tense she could be so sharp and it was difficult to know how to respond. Her self-image is that of a middle-class girl. She calls herself a snob."

"Redbank, the first home she went to after the trial, was run by this wonderful man, Mr Dixon, a retired, middle-class naval officer who became one of the most influential figures in her life. He became her guide as to how nice, normal people behave."

"That's all she wants to be now, normal, with a job she enjoys, something she's never had. It's difficult for her. Working with old people is what she'd like to do, but of course she can't, since the conditions of her release prevent her from working with people. Her great fear now is the tabloid press. They have stalked her for years."

"Then why agree to a book, no matter how well intentioned? 'I don't think there was much of a choice. She'd been in denial for years, her way of coping with her guilt. And, believe me, she suffers from guilt. For her own sanity she had to admit what she had done."

"Her partner was very supportive of her talking to me. His view is that she should not have to go on paying for crimes she committed during a horribly abused childhood. Mary doesn't feel that way. She feels guilty and still talks about the families of those children."

I ask if Sereny has any regrets now about writing the book. She shakes her head forcefully, arguing that only good can come of it in the long run, once the furor dies down. "I hope that among the many people who read this book, some will wonder why the child next door is always crying."

• *Cries Unheard*, by Gitta Sereny, is published by Macmillan on May 6 at £20. © Gitta Sereny 1998.

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The Duke of Buccleuch: feels insulted by ramblers

The Battle of Boughton may go down in history as a watershed in the war of attrition between ramblers and landowners in Britain — between those who demand unfettered access to the countryside and those who gain their livelihood from it. It may look a minor affair, but it has stung a formidable campaigner into action. The Duke of Buccleuch has gone on the attack.

On Easter Monday, members of the Ramblers' Association staged a press conference on the Duke's estate at Boughton in Northamptonshire to protest at what they claimed was an illegally blocked brideway. One of their leaders, Kate Ashbrook, was photographed trying to negotiate a ditch and a barbed wire fence which prevented them walking along a footpath. "We have to name and shame landowners and their tenants to get them to obey the law," said Ms Ashbrook. The Duke was referred to by the ramblers as "just another rotten footpath-blocker".

This was one insult too many. As a paid-up member of the association, the Duke prides himself on having opened more than 400 square miles of his estates in England and the Scottish Borders creating nature trails, woodland walks, picnic areas and visitor centres. He accused the ramblers of spying on a tenant farmer who had planted wheat innocently on a path which had been blocked for the past 45 years by a rail embankment. No one, to his knowledge, had complained before, but if they had, responsibility for action would be with the council highways department, since there was no suggestion that anyone had broken the law.

Kate Ashbrook released to the world a picture of herself looking like a Swan Lake ballerina being rescued from a wicked ducal man-trap," he said. "I venture to suggest the ramblers would achieve their aims more readily through co-operation rather than media confrontation with potential allies like me. It is a great pity that the ramblers' leaders do not realise how counter-productive this strategy can be."

We discussed these matters in the sunlit library at Bowhill, his stately house near Selkirk, and one of the four Buccleuch family homes. Outside, a group of children from an



Ramblers on an organised trespass on Pennine moorland near Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. They say: "We have to name and shame landowners and their tenants to get them to obey the law"

Edinburgh primary school were enjoying a day out on the estate by racing their mountain bikes along the gravel paths.

He said: "We have school groups on our land every day and at Boughton alone between 2,500 and 3,000 a year. Over 25 years I have tried to build bridges between town and country. We've launched a big educational initiative at a cost of £200,000 a year."

This policy has involved pulling down "negative" signposts warning trespassers to keep out and replacing them with others saying "Footpaths this way". The Duke has won an award for access at Boughton from the Countryside Commission, and has been applauded by David Bellamy as a model for other landowners to follow. Hence his exasperation at the ramblers' attack.

"We have to go on the offensive," he said. "Instead of waiting until we're criticised and then defending ourselves on our back leg, we've got to show that traditional family estates are making a positive contribution to the long-term future of the countryside."

The whole question of private ownership and public benefit in the country has become a political hot potato. The Government is waiting to see whether legislation is necessary and in Scotland there is a consultation paper on the future of rural land.

The Duke recognises that speaking up for the landowning class is no easy task at a time when, despite the famous countryside march on Hyde Park earlier this year, urban thinking governs most peoples' attitudes. "The public perception is of a man who sits there with huge inherited wealth, clawing in rents, being beastly to his tenants and shooting anything that moves. This has got somehow to be addressed and corrected."



Ramblers Kate Ashbrook and Chris Eilbeck at a blocked brideway on the Duke's estate

"We run our estates in exactly the same way as someone who runs a chain of shops or hotels."

With more than 1,000 employees, 127,000 sheep, 16,000 cattle and 60,000 tons of timber, the Buccleuch Estates are a major business, which has to be run with the same adroitness as a private company.

"There are no exemptions from the hazards of life. It's got to be on its toes, and at the same time it's performing an identical role to the National Trust, which everybody loudly applauds, but without the tax benefits. We're maintaining four major historic houses, and probably 200-300 listed buildings

which is a fairly major responsibility and can only be financed through efficient farming and forestry operations," said the Duke. He accepts, however, that there are bad landowners, that large tracts of land have been bought up from time to time by foreign interests or anonymous companies simply as speculative ventures, and that their approach to walkers has been anything but welcoming.

But he believes that these people represent a small minority when compared with those who strive to maintain estates along traditional lines, investing substantial funds in what may in the end be a non-revenue producing asset. Against a

background of hostile taxation, it has often been a losing battle.

"Eighty years ago, 90 per cent of the countryside was managed by traditional family estates but after hostile legislation, that figure has dropped to 30 per cent and is still falling fast. Traditional family estates are being driven out of business and when they are forced to sell up, the opportunities are presented to new owners who many people deplore."

It is against this background that war has been declared by the more militant members of the Ramblers' Association. Determined to cast landowners in the guise of hostile or self-interested exploiters, they

FACT FILE

- The Ramblers' Association was formed in 1935 after an incident in which unemployed mill workers clashed with Derbyshire landowners over access to grouse moors.
- In 1949, lobbying by the ramblers forced through the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.
- In 1968 the Countryside Act forced county councils in England and Wales to signpost rights of way.
- In April 1997 Labour pledged to support legislation allowing unfettered right to access to much of the countryside.
- In February 1998, after lobbying by the Country Landowners Association, the Government suggested a scheme that would encourage landowners to "voluntarily" open up their land.
- *Walking the London Loop*: Travel, p31.

incorrect than a landowner," he sighed. "And when you're a duke into the bargain, well that's the worst of all. You end up bottom of the pile."

But he is determined to pursue the argument. He would like Kate Ashbrook to visit him at Bowhill or at Boughton so that he could debate the question of access face to face. He believes that in this way, he could convince her that by co-operating on an issue where both he and she, in the end, share the same goals, far more could be achieved than by public altercation.

"I feel I could provide their members with a better service than some of their present leaders," he joked. "Not that I'm seeking to occupy the hot seat. But we are in effect trying to protect what people have come to see for themselves."

So far, however, the olive branch is being rejected. This week, Ms Ashbrook said that she would only meet the Duke if she were assured that all the public footpaths on his Northamptonshire estate would be opened. Undeterred, the Duke believes that this incident may mark a turning point.

"I'm an optimist, and I think we are beginning to win the argument," he said. "You may think it odd that I should be saying that with a left-wing government in power, but I believe that this is one that does have people in it who have an ability to analyse things as they are rather than in terms of past ideologies."

With that, we went downstairs, along an elegant Bowhill corridor, for lunch in the dining-room, with a view over elegant lawns and landscaped vistas.

Outside, the pupils of Craigmount School were being rounded up, reluctantly, for the long trip back to Edinburgh.

"LONDON'S ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES. BUT I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT IT."

JULIE FROSTYTH, PROMOTIONS MANAGER.

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SELFRIDGES



Design duo Ren Pearce, left, and Andrew Fionda have a bit of fun together while choosing their flowers from the myriad vibrant selection

Fashion's flower-power

Pearce Fionda's designs are pure, colourful and ground-breaking — like the flowers in their local florist. Jane Goodkin meets them there

SHOP WATCH

■ **Royal Doulton's** Select card makes sense for brides-to-be. Each time you purchase Royal Doulton china or glass, you accrue money-off vouchers, starting at £10 off for every £100 spent. Cardholders also get free two-year accidental breakage cover. Call 0990 443044 for stockists.

■ **Bedstock** is the decorating perfectionists' dream shop as it custom dyes its bedlinen or towels in any of 450 colours. Rose and gerbera designs have PJs to match. Find them at 26 Portobello Green Arcade, 281 Portobello Road, London W10 (0181-964 1547).

■ **Rachel Riley's** children's clothes are ideal for summer weddings. There are Liberty dresses (£44) and grown-up cocktail dresses, including a stunning black and white toile design (£120). Previously only mail order, now clothes can be tried on at the shop at 14 Pont Street, London SW1 (0171-259 5969).

■ **40 Savile Row** has turned traditional men's tailoring on its head.



Made-to-measure suit

Your measurements and fabric choices are fed to the in-store computer, then you can check out the look of the suit on-screen. Details are kept on file, so repeat buys can be done by phone. 40 Savile Row, London W1 (0171-287 6740).

■ **Antique Baths** of Ivybridge is the place to go for one-off bathroom accessories, as it scours Europe for antique baths and fittings. You are as likely to find a 1950s basin as a Victorian roll-top bath. Ernie Bridge Works, Ermington Road, Ivybridge, Devon (01752 698 253).

■ **UPDATE:** Super-hit handbag designers Tanner Krolle is raising its profile in the North with a concession opening in the Leeds Harvey Nichols this week (0171-399 0031). The White House, known for its exquisite bedlinen, launches a baby layette department this week. Find it at 40-41 Conduit Street, London W1 (0171-629 3521).

JUDITH WILSON

The cabbie is just winding up his learned exposition on the "serenial rawness" of this overlooked enclave of north London when I notice a bloke in a bobble hat vogueing in a doorway. I dive for cover into the Flower Store — the favourite shop of design duo Ren Pearce and Andrew Fionda — unaware of a chap right behind me proudly clutching his "man-eating" plant. It seems I have arrived in Finsbury Park.

These savants, exhibitionists and nutters all add local colour to the otherwise dusty high road of cafes and corner shops squatting in the shadow of a grey railway bridge. This dismal stretch of the Seven Sisters Road was an inner cityscape that hardly warranted a second glance until the Flower Store arrived last December, transforming a 1940s shoe-shop interior into a gleaming glass box of the utmost simplicity.

Andrew Fionda has lived a short walk from here for the past ten years, passing by en route to his regular local haunt, the bowling alley. "This whole parade was really depressing," he recalls grimly. Then the Flower Store appeared and the more he walked past it, the more he began to recognise something of himself reflected in its sheer expanse.

"In flower shop terms, this place has the same philosophy as us: it does the job, but in a more sophisticated way than the norm. It stands out because while being practical it is also imaginative. It has all been so well thought out that it will never date."

As young designers of uncharacteristic perspicacity, widely feted for the chic, modern tailoring of the Pearce Fionda label, neither Ren, 33, nor Andrew, 31, has ever shown the slightest interest in the wild, anarchic posturing of their fashion contemporaries. While Nottingham Trent University — where the two met — may have given them a



The sleek, sophisticated, modern, glass shop epitomises the designers' philosophy

our favourite shop

licence to dream, stark reality, they have since discovered, is a different proposition. "It's amazing what they don't tell you at college. At the end of the day, the clothes have got to go into a shop."

Ren has little time for "all the bullshit that goes with fashion", denouncing as stunts clothing that aims to shock — "and please the right magazines" — rather than be worn by real people. "To me, it's a case of the emperor's new clothes."

GADGETS



TX1 cabs have all mod cons

Alarm. Though pocket-sized it is just as noisy as some car alarms.

The fob measures 2in by 3in and is set off by pulling out a button with your nail. It can be deactivated via a discreet rear button.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● TX1 taxi, from £25,000 from London Taxis International (01203 595701). Personal Attack Alarm, £9.95 from The Gadger Shop (0800 728343).

Perhaps it is this old-heads-on-young-shoulders approach that accounts for the clutch of fashion industry prizes awarded to Pearce and Fionda ever since their first collection just three years ago. In 1997 they earned the ultimate accolade: Lloyd's Bank British Fashion Awards prize for glamour.

Although today the duo are designers by appointment to such celebrities as Lili Maltese, theirs has not been a smooth road to success. They have struggled through a dozen frugal seasons, eking out a meagre existence. Although Ren insists that in the world of fashion there is never "a right

time to take it easy", recent developments have lightened the burden of anxiety.

Like Clements Ribeiro, Copperwheat Blundell and other designers of their generation, Pearce Fionda have had no choice but to move their production arm to Italy. "We had to do it to stay competitive," Ren says. "There was no other option; British manufacturing just can't match Italian quality and price for small runs." And while it may seem outrageous that the World Young Designers' winners cannot remain viable even in Blair's Britain, the move feels "like a weight off our minds", leaving the pair free to be creative. Top department stores worldwide continue to remain loyal to the label, stockists have doubled this season and a Japanese outlet looks likely.

All of which means good business for Amala Shah's flower shop. "We love the way

the flowers are colour coordinated, like a fashion collection," says Ren. Other than white bouquets, the duo might choose a bunch of blue and purple cottage garden blooms — "good colours for sending to a man" — or a more studied composition of subtly tinged cream roses. The choice is wide enough to cope with every caprice, without risking the ultimate floral gaffe — the hospital lobby's mixed bunch.

Although they are dedicated followers of black, they both appreciate the shop's pulsating colours. "It is all about the contrast between the natural and the man-made," explains Ren. "The charge that comes of putting two extremes together. Dr Zhivago was the theme of our last show, yet we set it off with sunflowers. Black is here to stay, but we all need to break a rule occasionally."

Just as it seems that Andrew could happily buy everything in this shop, he pauses at a shelf of succulents and looks doubtful. "Cacti, hmmm, they're not really me. Let's see Ren, if we were a tree, what would we be?" One glance at a classic fig tree in a slender metal pot is all the conferring they need. "Straightforward, unfussy and familiar, but just look closely and you will notice its intricately plaited stem. Simple with an interesting twist. That's us."

● The Flower Store, 282 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2HY (0171-561 9287). Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 8pm; Sunday 10am to 4pm



It's in the bag

Every time I go to an airport I vow I will never again board a plane carrying a plastic bag. So, as my thoughts begin to turn to summer holidays, perhaps now is the time to plan ahead and invest in some decent, stylish, made-to-last hand luggage.

Although most passengers seem to want to take as much as possible into the cabin, airlines have rules about the size of carry-on luggage. "A standard rule of thumb is that your carry-on bag should not exceed a total of 115cm," says Brian Wreford of Antler Luggage. British Airways stipulates that bags should be no bigger than 55 x 40 x 20cm and weigh no more than 6kg; charter carriers such as Air UK and Britannia allow no more than 5kg.

HAND LUGGAGE

For most passengers, the bags must not only be easy to carry, sporting wheels, strong handles and a good strap, but ensure that clothes get there as uncreased as possible. When choosing a bag in a shop, imagine what you would put in it, what your capsule wardrobe would be made up of, which soap or shoe or make-up bags you would take on short journeys, and how many items you would want to hang or fold in it. This planning will help to ensure you buy a bag which has the right amount of space, pockets and compartments, and the right handles and wheels for your requirements.

SUDI PIGOTT



LEFT: Glen Royal Weekender is an extremely light and bright holdall made of thin PVC-type material with leather trimmings. Although not for frequent use, it is easy to wipe clean. The handles are small but there is an optional shoulder handle. NOK for heavy objects. £110. The Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7401)

RIGHT: Bries Levante's lightweight hand luggage in PVC-type material with leather trim. Double-ended zip for easy access, button-over leather handle for comfort and zip side pocket for travel documents. £95. Selfridges, 400 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-629 1234)

BELOW: Black nylon flight bag with two large external pockets, plus internal pockets, external zip closure for extra security and adjustable shoulder strap. £24.99. Next Directory, 0345-100500

RIGHT: Roller case executive mobile office in polyester. Small compact double-decker layout to separate overnight items from business equipment. Internal telescopic handle and wheels. £89. Antler Ltd, as before

BELOW: Weekender carry-on case with Connolly's hallmark cream leather and burr walnut rigid framed interior designed by Ross Lovegrove. Adjustable cushioned handle and shoulder strap distributes weight. One large clothes compartment and one for papers. £2,400. Connolly, 32 Grosvenor Crescent Mews, London SW1 (0171-235 3883)

BELOW: Antler hatchbacks roller cabin/overnighter in durable ribbed polyester fabric with padded side panels and protective sledge runners. Hatch openings for easy packing, a combination lock with quick-release catch, mesh side pockets and a shoe pocket, and an aluminium telescopic tow handle. £79. Antler Ltd, as before

LEFT: The Bill Amberg holdall in Kelly-bag shape, with a sturdy, rigid base and zip. It is roomy, lined, but has no inside pockets. £250. The Conran Shop, as before

Photographs by Des Jensen

كنا من الأصل

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The bottom line

The greatest problem that confronts a man at the swimwear counter is the same as that facing the purchaser of underpants or barrier contraceptives: the woman behind the till is going to be imagining what you look like in them. She is going to find it funny.

The men on the packets do not have the same kind of body as you or I, so the trunks look different. Better. Furthermore, when you take them out of the box they do not look like swimming trunks at all. They look like the sort of ancient sling used to slay Philistines in the Old Testament.

To add insult, the men in the box illustration tend to wear the item with a medium-sized haggis inside. The box neglects to mention that the traditional Scottish pudding is not included.

So we leave our trendy new Versace posing pouches behind when we pack for the holiday, and rootle out a pair of football shorts ("make sure they've got the special netting in them, so you can use them to swim," my mother used to shout across the packed Saturday crowds at Lucas Sports). The result is that they get too heavy and stick to our legs so we can't do breaststroke, and our tan line is so low that we look, standing naked in front of the mirror at the end of our holiday, as if we are wearing knee-socks.

"In the past, the two main mistakes have been bright colours and long baggy shorts," says *Time Out* consumer editor Lorna V. "Both of these problems derive from the British male's reluctance to see himself as sexy. The French, Italian or Brazilian man, on the other hand, can hardly wait to flaunt his body. These days British men are willing to spend money on their swimwear, but they are unsure of what to go for."

You're telling me. But do we really have to pucker up and disport ourselves in a pair of Speedo briefs?

"Those are okay if you have the body for it," she says. "But not everyone has. Recently, men have started to feel the same pressures as women about having a perfect body—but most women think that a man who goes to the gym all the time and tries too hard to look good in his briefs is not sexy anyway. Understated chic is what you're after."

Understated chic? And there was I thinking it was OK to just pull off my strides and jump in the sea in my Y-fronts. That is a mistake many

Englishmen make," says Damian Fox, a fashion writer and stylist. "You can walk down the beach in Ibiza or Corfu and pick out the Brits by looking for men wearing Mickey Mouse or World Cup boxer shorts. Even the kind of men who keep their wardrobes up to date seldom put the same effort into their swimwear, although some trends have been visible lately."

"Last year, Gucci went very big on tiny little G-strings, but they were mostly left untouched and found their way into the sales. Again, this is probably because British men don't have the bodies for them. What has been popular is the return to the 1970s-style trunks by people like Dolce & Gabbana and Diesel."

"They are tight-fitting but longer than briefs, often with a little belt or pocket, and some piping on the seams. It is a more flattering shape than the brief because it holds things in, although it can make your legs look a bit wide."

This news comes as a great relief to those of us who learnt to swim in just such trunks as these, and were horrified to learn—on reaching our majority—that not only did we have to pay tax and vote, but we also had to make up our minds about what we were going to wear on the beach.

Now comfortable at the height of fashion again—and nurturing dreams of that archetypal trunks-wearer Burt Lancaster, snogging Deborah Kerr on the beach in *From Here to Eternity*—we can expect to be chased down the sand by amorous female bathers. But what are our chances of making a clean getaway, across the water?

"Well, these are not the choice of the competitive swimmer," says Josie Grange of the Amateur Swimming Association. "What he is looking for is something with the least amount of drag, with no seams or details. Speedo have brought in a new material called Aquablade originally designed for the 1996 Olympics, which is so streamlined that it is faster through the water than your own skin."

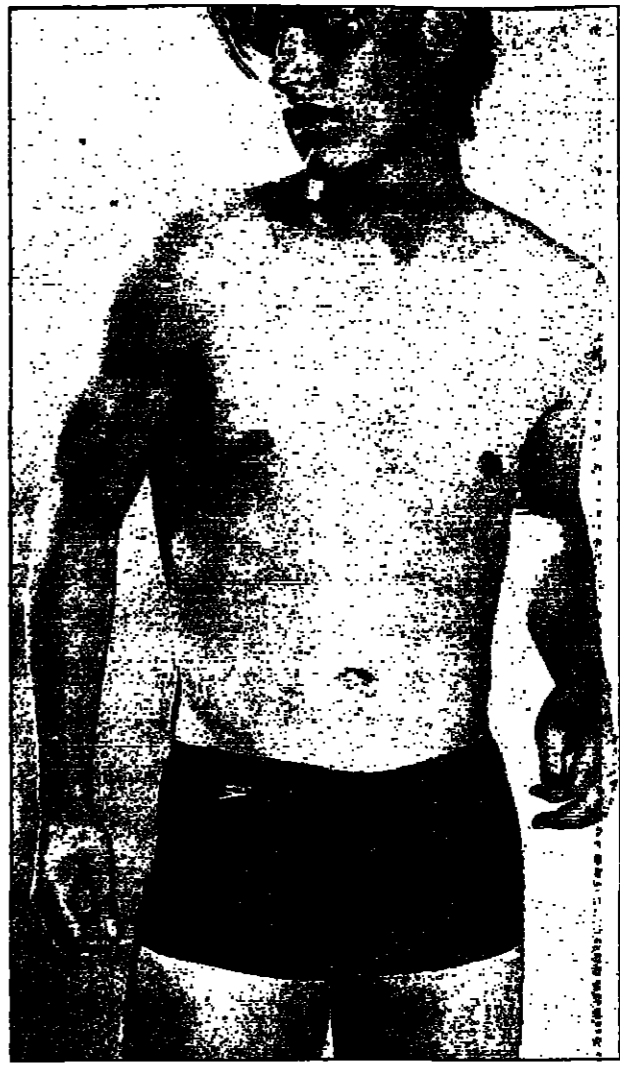
But, do they look good on dry land? "Well," Ms Grange muses, "they are ribbed, and go all the way down to your knees. Nick Gillingham, one of our top swimmers, wears them in competition."

When the races are done for the day, however, you can be sure that Deborah Kerr cocks him a pretty serious snook.

COLIN STEEL



ABOVE: Navy/red Boscini shorts, £27, Speedo, House of Fraser, selected stores (0171-963 2236)

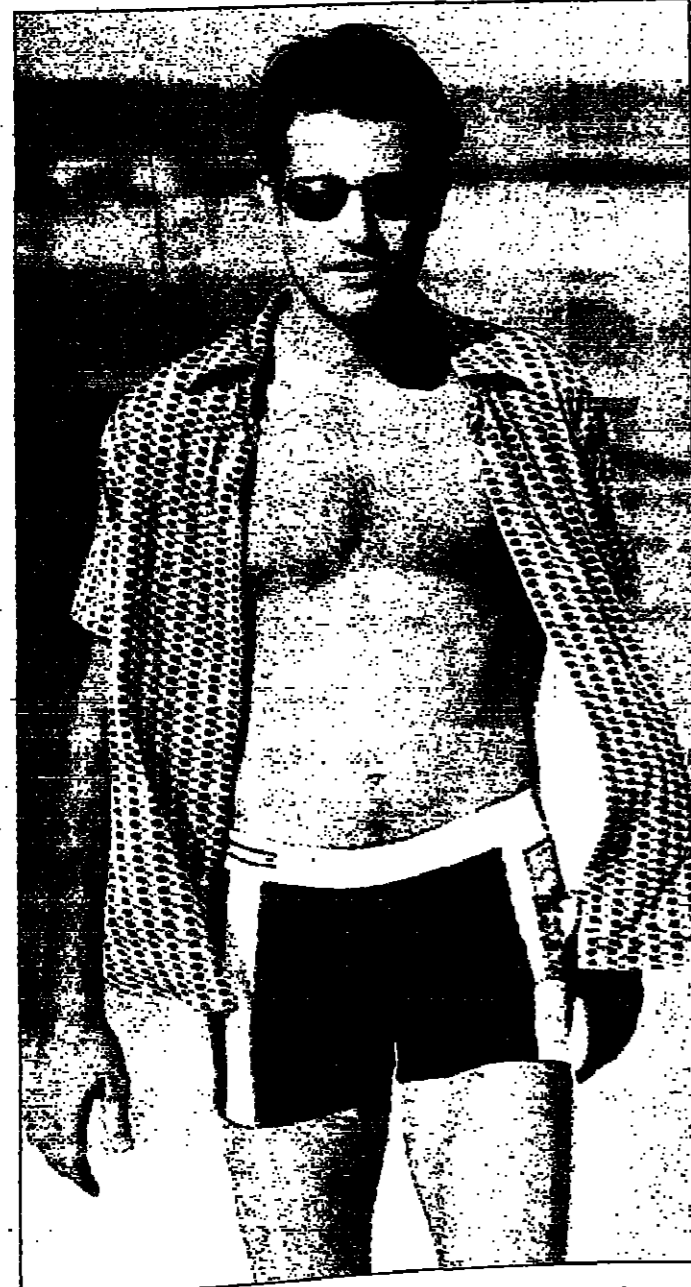


ABOVE: Turquoise and black stretch Lycra trunks, £15, Speedo, BHS, 252-258 Oxford Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-262 3288)



ABOVE: Navy sheer stripe shirt, £89; blue trunks with white side stripe, £35, Armani, 191 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-823 8818)

Photographs by Anna Stevenson
Grooming by Fityal
using Paul Mitchell Luxury Hair Care Products
Styling by Aramitip Uppal




ABOVE: Blue print shirt, £47, Gas Floor; navy panel trunks, £40, Diesel, both House of Fraser, selected stores (as above)




LEFT: Dark olive, brown and black trunks, £42, Armani Basi, 12 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-278 4842)

THREE OF A KIND


Flip flops are not just for children; look out for these cool and comfortable adult versions.



LEFT: Blue plastic flip flops, £45, Patrick Cox (0171-823 8818)




RIGHT: Choc and beige rubber flip flops, £17.99, Diesel



FAR RIGHT: Blue plastic mules, £15, Nike (0181-838 4447)

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Rainforest Café — high camp comedy or educational treat, asks Derwent May



Derwent May braved the animatronic creatures of the Rainforest Café where life-size jungle animals entertain and enlighten diners as they take part in a food safari

Drink



Jane MacQuitty

Believe it or not, summer is here and that means one thing: it's time to put fizz into your life

Summer is upon us and the burgeoning buds, dawn choruses and engagement columns mean one thing to me: the start of the sparkling wine season. Judging from my postbag, every one planning a summer wedding or big celebration has already started to consider the expensive question of what, when and how much to serve.

The golden wine rule at any big party, whether it's a grand formal wedding or a low-key, family anniversary, is to keep the wine choices simple. One alcoholic and one non-alcoholic drink should be fine for the pre-prandial stage, with lots of bottles of mineral water to quench thirst in between. In my experience, at large parties even discerning wine drinkers get confused by too much choice. Understandably, most of us will always pay more

attention to other guests than the contents of our glass. But if you want to economise, it's worth remembering that guests at large gatherings are likely to remember the contents of their first and last glasses better than the ones in between. And no matter how good the function, if you and yours have served gut rot, none of your

guests will thank you the next day when they wake up with the mother of all hangovers. Pour the first glass down everyone's throats as swiftly as possible. If you are expecting 100 or more to arrive at the same time, the only way to do this, without dozens of waiters, is to line the filled glasses up at the entrance and firmly encourage everyone to help themselves from the outset.

As to the amount of wine you should always calculate half a bottle per head for every two hours of reception, or party time. Thus if you have a two-hour reception starting at 4pm before a dinner, with dancing afterwards until midnight, you will need at least one and a half to two bottles of wine per head. It is true that the better the wine, the more people will drink. But misers should note that abstainers and those who have to drive home ensure that the half-bottle-a-head rule for every two hours of party time does hold true. On large wine orders always make certain you buy on a sale or return basis.

Even if it's a wedding, the expense of serving champagne to hundreds is steep. But one wheeze is to serve other wines throughout and just serve a glass of the real thing for the toast: you should get six good-sized glasses from each champagne bottle. Unless you are on your own territory, it's worth discovering how much corkage you might be charged if you decide to bring your own, possibly cheaper, bubbly in. Corkage charges for sparkling wines vary between £5-£16 a bottle.

As usual, this summer's best champagne deals are at Majestic Wine Warehouses and Oddbins. Majestic has knocked 20 per cent off five case purchases of a long list of decent champagnes, with Perrier-Jouët's rich, floral, fruity champagne good value at £15.19 a bottle. Over at Oddbins, you can collar the same champagne for the same price but need only buy six bottles or more to get 20 per cent off.

If you like a stimmer, more green apple-styled champagne, try Laurent Perrier's fine fizz, £16.79 at Oddbins if you buy six or more, £16.79 at Majestic if you buy 60 or more.

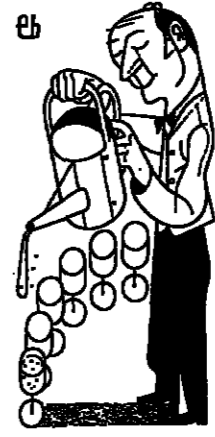
Oddbins is knocking £10 or more off a quintet of top cuvée champagnes. These include the sensational 1990 Dom Pérignon, a heavenly, heady, honey-eyed, buttered-toast mouthful that drops £12

bottle to about £49.99, the same price I pay for it in duty free. One for the honeymoon. Or pack two bottles of another great vintage champagne from the superb 1990 vintage: the glorious, intense, perfumed, floral 1990 Taittinger, and save £10 in total, £27.99, not £32.99, each. Majestic's price for two or more is £30.59.

If you are prepared to make the journey — and if I was getting married again this summer, I certainly would — the best place to buy champagne is in France where minimal rates of duty apply. The cheapest champagne bought in France at Carrefours and the like could be as low as £5 but, frankly, I wouldn't buy this sort of enamel stripper.

Your best bet is to buy one of the big brands marques, or co-operative champagne names, but taste before you buy. As the Champenois themselves admit, champagnes with the same labels often differ in quality from France to Britain.

The only exception I have found to this better-in-Britain-than-France champagne rule is Nigohas Feuillante Brut, a straightforward, but slightly mouthful which is £15.99 in Tesco and only £8.20 in its Cité Europe store. Good luck!



Food fit for children of the earth

Umbrellas were up, so we had to pass first through a rain-jungle in Soho on our way last Saturday evening to the renowned Rainforest Café in Shaftesbury Avenue. We could identify the queue on the pavement from a long way off, because people in it were holding up exotic green and yellow umbrellas. We joined the queue, and after a moment or two a girl came up carrying one of the same umbrellas, which we could now see was decorated with gaudy tropical flowers and leaves.

It was her job to set us off on our safari. She told us that the restaurant could take 350 customers, so there was a steady turnover, and that we would be inside in a few minutes. Then our safari would begin. We would be given a passport, with the time marked on it when a table would be available — which should be within three-quarters of an hour. Then we could start the food safari.

At lunchtimes and on evenings at the beginning of the week, one could generally get a table straightaway.

The girl was right about us sound being in, and to sounds of thunder and with lightning flashes overhead, we wove down the stairs through jungle foliage to a desk. How many were we? Two. In that case we could go in straightaway. What a shaft of jungle sunlight! So we were led by a waitress to what seemed to be

the only table for two in the stretch of the forest to which we had been assigned.

In fact, the Rainforest Café proved to be, as it claims, very much a place for children's outings. At nearly all the large tables around us, lines of children under six were sitting up like well-behaved explorers with their parents.

As for us, we were really in the thick of it now. We could have applied to the bar — sorry, the Oasis — for a cocktail: a Speckled Forest Grasshopper, described as an endangered species blending *crème de menthe* and *crème de cacao*, or a Spotted Chocolate Monkey with bananas, chocolate and rum. But we decided to have a glass of champagne each as a last link with civilisation.

We needed those. A few yards away a life-size gorilla — declaring its femaleness where the hair on its chest parted — was surveying us with a scowl, and suddenly rose on her feet and leaned towards us. Fortunately she subsided. But then a deafening trumpeting arose on the other side, where two full-sized elephants were wagging their ears and shifting their shoulders menacingly.

We took another gulp of champagne and in the dim jungle light, under ceiling stars, we tried to make out the menu. A page called Before The Adventure offered starters. Avoiding Amazon Bruschetta and Pieces of Abe, we decided to share a plate of

Rainforest Fitta Quesilladas. The salads (The Adventure Begins) included one with chicken called African Wind, a sensation we did not want to experience, so we turned to On Safari — the main courses. My companion settled for Coral Reef Kebab, while I rather weakly chose the almost meaningful Chicken Bombay.

Another voice now made itself heard. It was the voice of the jungle creatures educating us. It gave us depressing statistics of rainforest destruction and ended with the prophecy that if nothing was done about it, "we shall all be gone". However, for the moment the elephants and gorillas (there was another, a male, lurking round the corner in a grotto) seemed indestructible as they began another round of cries.

Our quesadillas proved quite tasty, if not very inspired. They were little pieces of pita bread spread with scraps of onion, pepper, chicken, melted cheese and so on, with dips of sour cream and guacamole. My companion's

skewer was an "Amazon-sized" skewer of shrimps and seafood on pilaf rice with a small jungle of vegetables next to it. She quite liked it but found the fishy bits metallic. My grilled chicken was tender, and had been nicely marinated in coconut, curry and other spices; it was accompanied by another jungle, this time of salad, and some Thai peanut sauce. With this, we had a bottle of the Blossom Hill house wine (washed up on the beach from California, I suppose), and our bill, including the champagne, came to £51.90 without service. The children seemed to be

ON SAFARI

entrees

JAMAICA, ME CRAZY! £13.95
Char-grilled pork chops dressed with Capers and Citrus Seasoning, sautéed atop a bed of mixed beans, spicy Italian sausage and fragrant pilaf rice. Served with homemade apple chutney.

SIAM STIR FRY £11.95
Tender chunks of chicken breast marinated and stir-fried with chopped shallots, tomatoes, red and green bell peppers. Served on a bed of seasoned rice and garnished with light crisp wontons and toasted sesame seeds.

ISLAND HOPPER CHICKEN £16.95
Tender chicken breast, spiced with Capers and Citrus Seasoning and char-grilled to perfection. Topped with shrimp and corn salsa, sautéed on crispy fried onions and served with fresh vegetable medley.

MAYA PASTALAYA £11.95
Fresh cooked linguine, topped with chicken tenders, shrimp, fresh bell peppers, sweet red onions, fiery Andouille sausage, and tossed in a spicy Cajun sauce. Garnished with fresh diced Roma tomatoes and green onions. "Jump start your taste buds!"

CHICKEN BOMBAY £10.95
Tender chicken breast, marinated in curry, tamaric and coconut milk, char-grilled to perfection. Served on a bed of mixed greens tossed with soy vinaigrette dressing, with a side of seasoned rice and our fabulous Thai peanut sauce.

Food to go wild for: a taste of the On Safari menu which has a tropical theme

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taking the experience stolidly. One boy poked an elephant, and a little girl stroked the male gorilla's beard. However, they were mostly concentrating on their Tasty Tiddlers (fried fish and baked beans) or Rainforest Rascal (burger and beans) which came on a separate children's menu at £7.95.

The Rainforest Café presents itself as both a great night out for children and their parents and an educational venture. However, I was not convinced that a visit to it would turn children into ecologically-sensitive animal

sumed, used and wasted can have an effect on our planet's rainforests.

Many rainforest people are under threat. On average, one indigenous group has disappeared every year since 1900 in Brazil.

Fewer than 650 mountain gorillas now live in the wild.

Every known species of macaw is either endangered or extinct.

JUNGLE BOX

CHILDREN visiting the Rainforest Café learn that:

- Every year an area of tropical rainforest the size of England and Wales is destroyed.
- Around 50,000 species of plants and animals are lost each year through rainforest destruction — a rate of 5.7 species per hour.
- Nearly everything that is bought, consumed, used and wasted can have an effect on our planet's rainforests.

THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

Buck's Fizz

UNTIL his death in 1966, the increasingly eccentric Captain Herbert Buckmaster continued to run the St James's club that he and a few fellow officers of the Blues had set up while on active service in the French village of Guillemont in 1918. It became the toast of the Twenties, and was the club P G Wodehouse later felt had been the nearest to his idea of the Drones.

In the burst of youthful bonhomie which followed demobilisation (1921, to be precise), Mr McGarry, first bartender at Bucks, hit upon an absolutely wizard idea. Squeeze one third fresh orange juice into a frosted champagne flute, fill it up with two thirds bubbly, stir and serve: Buck's Fizz was born!

Although old Capt Buckmaster did survive to see England swing like a pendulum do (and young bucks in Guard's tunics two-by-two), mercifully, he was spared the spectacle of Britain's entry into the Eurovision Song Contest under his name; and ensuing Top of the Pops appearances



with *Making Your Mind Up*, *My Camera Never Lies* and *Land of Make Believe* in 1961 and '62. Thank heaven for small mercies. Now that the ghosts of this beat combo have

been laid by second careers of some moderate success, it should be safe to order this refreshing beverage again.

KATE STRONACH

HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

LAST week I extolled the virtue of using mayonnaise from a jar: for some kitchen jobs it really does pass muster (I apologise for the confusing headline, my chefs have been asking me all week to show them how to make a roulade out of celery).

Another sure sign of good weather approaching is the start of the English asparagus season. I can't get enough of it: whether in soups, boiled, grilled or gratinated. It has a full rich flavour that can't be equalled by any of the imported stock. It may taste great in the country that it's grown in but it doesn't seem to travel well.

The most luxurious way of eating this gorgeous spear is with a sauce mousseline. It is an emulsion sauce based on hollandaise (mayonnaise is also an emulsion sauce) that has loosely beaten cream added to it. I would never pretend that a rich butter sauce is healthy, but this sauce is slightly less hazardous to the arteries, as cream has a lower fat content than butter.

For this you can't just use a jar of hollandaise; it may define itself as such on the



label but it bears no similarity to the original. What you do need is a food processor — this is the tool that will help you make the sauce without being overly nervous. The rapid spinning of the blade will give you a tight emulsion that won't split easily.

SAUCE MOUSSELINE

Serves 4 to 6
Six tablespoons of white wine vinegar, 2 peppercorns, half a bayleaf, 1 small chopped shallot, 50ml water, 250g of unsalted butter, 3 egg yolks and 125ml of double cream. Place the first five ingredi-

ents in a small pan, bring to the boil and reduce down to four tablespoons. Strain it and set aside. Take the butter and melt it in the microwave in a heatproof jug with a lip. Then place the eggs and vinegar reduction in the processor and run for just less than a minute so that the mixture lightens in colour and becomes moussey. Then, with the motor running, start to pour the hot butter in a slow but steady stream. If the mixture becomes very thick and takes on a greasy appearance, add a splash of hot water.

When all the butter has been incorporated, add salt and pepper to taste and perhaps a little lemon juice if it isn't sharp enough. It should have a gentle acidity, that will become even more gentle when you add the cream. Place the cream in a separate bowl, season it with some salt and pepper and then whisk it to the point where it is soft and floppy, not stiff.

Then gently stir this into the hollandaise and serve alongside plenty of boiled asparagus.

The author is head chef at Harvey Nichols fifth-floor restaurant in Knightsbridge

STAR BUYS

1996 Hungarian Chardonnay, Buda, Safeway, £3.29

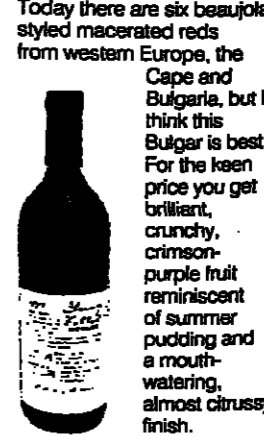
With Hugh Ryan his one-time mentor, Akos Karnocsy knows his stuff. There are no dramatic Chardonnay characteristics but what you get is tremendous floral,



zesty, lemony fruit with the kind of refreshing lime juice-like finish that makes a good spring or summer aperitif. At a pinch this aromatic white could wash down simple white meat, or fish-based salads.

1997 Young Vatted Merlot, Rousse, Safeway, £3.49

Safeway introduced its first vibrant, juicy, young vatted red duo five years ago. Today there are six beautiful-styled macerated reds



from western Europe, the Cape and Bulgaria, but I think this Bulgar is best. For the keen price you get bric-a-brac, crunchy, crimson-purple fruit reminiscent of summer pudding and a mouth-watering, almost citrusy finish.

BEST OF THE REST
Tesco's Wine Festival, running until May 27, looks the tastiest of the many supermarket wine fairs being held this month. Apart from 32 discounted special purchases, including the chunky Chilean 1997 Santa Ines Malbec for £4.99 and Barbado's top, tangy Solear Marzanilla for £6.99, there are free tastings. In 1997 250,000 customers took advantage. Be there.

هكذا من الأصل

The Times Cook

Celebrate the Bank Holiday with rich flavours and strong colours that bring a promise of summer

By this time of year, I am ready for summer food — for bright Mediterranean colours and flavours, olive oil, garlic, basil and sweet tomatoes. I am tempted by broad beans and peas from Spain and other countries, where summer comes early.

Unless you really like strawberries, fruit is still difficult right now; apricots, peaches and nectarines are imported before they are ripe; loquats are not widely available although they started appearing in the shops in mid-April, and we will not see native gooseberries until the end of the month. Tropical fruit is one answer, but I have decided instead to concentrate on grapefruit, making an ice-cream, crystallised peel, and a gin and grapefruit syrup.

This trio of grapefruit flavours makes a very elegant dessert, which I garnish with long, curved triangular tules, for which I cut out a cardboard template. None of the elements which makes up this dish

how it compares with the products of agribusiness. Once you have read Ms Brown's account of pesticides used in fruit and vegetable production, you may well start to rethink your shopping list.

Deriving inspiration from two Mediterranean dishes, gazpacho and brandade de morue, my first course can be prepared partially in advance. In fact, the brandade needs to be made the day before to allow the juices to set and bind the fish, olive oil, garlic and milk to a creamy paste, which you can shape into quenelles with dessertspoons.

Tomatoes are simply blended and sieved, seasoned with sea salt, extra virgin olive oil, a dash of sherry vinegar, if you like, and some garlic. This thick fresh "soup" is served chilled with minutely diced cucumber, red, yellow and green peppers, spooned into the middle, and the brandade, which I make from smoked haddock, on top. While the soup vegetables can be peeled and diced in advance, the tomatoes are best prepared just before required to retain their fragrance. This is a lovely dish, one to turn to again and again in the coming months, especially as tomatoes get riper and sweeter.

Chilled tomato soup with gazpacho garnish and brandade of smoked haddock
Serves 6 to 8

- 500g undyed smoked haddock fillet
- 200ml milk
- 100ml extra virgin olive oil, hot
- 6 to 8 garlic cloves, peeled and blanched
- Freshly ground black or white pepper
- 1/2 cucumber
- 1 each medium-sized red, yellow and green pepper
- 1kg very ripe tomatoes
- 2tbsp extra virgin olive oil, cold
- 1tbsp sherry vinegar
- Fresh basil
- Sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- For garnish: chervil, dill, or basil

Put the fish and milk in a saucepan, and poach until the fish is just done; 3 to 4 minutes will be sufficient, not much more. Remove the fish, and when cool enough to

handle, discard the skin and any bones, and put the fish and garlic in the food processor. Process until the fish is quite broken up. Gradually add the hot olive oil and enough of the milk to make a paste of spreading, rather than liquid, consistency. Season with pepper. Scrape into a container and, once cool, refrigerate until required.

Halve the cucumber and discard the seeds. Peel it, slice lengthways, cut into thin strips and then dice. With a potato peeler, peel the thin skin from the peppers as far as you can. You will probably not manage the top and bottom, which can be chopped off and used in another

Frances Bissell



dish, such as piperade perhaps. Halve the peppers, remove the seeds and cut the flesh into fine dice. If pepper skin does not bother you, then do not bother to peel them.

To prepare the tomatoes, put them in a blender or food processor with oil, vinegar, basil and seasoning, and blend until smooth. Sieve into a jug.

To assemble the dish, stir the tomato soup and pour into soup plates.

Spoon a flat disc of vegetables in the middle, and place a quenelle of smoked haddock on top. Decorate with some fresh herbs and serve immediately.

- Spring duckling stew**
Serves 6-8
- 1 large duck, or two small ducklings, jointed
 - 500g each new potatoes, small purple and white turnips (or navets), young carrots, peeled, if necessary
 - 6 cloves of garlic, peeled, optional
 - 250g each asparagus spears and green beans, trimmed
 - 2 bunches of spring onions, trimmed
 - Bouquet garni, made of 2 or 3 parsley stalks, 1 bay leaf, a sprig of tarragon and sprig of thyme
 - 200ml duck or chicken stock

200ml fruity white wine

Salt
Pepper
Fresh herbs for garnish, such as tarragon, chervil and/or flat-leaf parsley

Heat a heavy-based frying pan and put the duck pieces in it, skin side down. Cook gently until the fat runs free, and pour this off. Then raise the heat to brown the pieces, turn them over and brown the other side. Pour off the fat. Put the carrots, potatoes, garlic and turnips in the pan, cutting up the vegetables to the same size to ensure even cooking. Tuck in the bouquet garni. Pour on half the stock and wine, bring to the boil, cover, and simmer gently for 40-45 minutes.

Add the remaining liquid, asparagus, green beans and spring onions and simmer for a further 20 to 25 minutes, until both meat and vegetables are tender.

Season to taste and scatter on some fresh herbs before serving. The casserole needs no other accompaniment.

Grapefruit ice cream
Serves 6-8

Take 400g of cold or chilled grapefruit curd, made as for lemon curd, fold in 200ml whipping cream, whipped, and freeze in a container in the freezer, or use an ice-cream maker or sorbetière.

Crystallised grapefruit peel

2 grapefruits, squeezed
Water — see recipe
About 300g caster sugar

Discard the membranes and cut the skin into neat strips. Cover with water, bring to the boil and cook until the peel is tender and translucent. Drain, rinse and return to the saucepan with 200ml water and 200g sugar. Cook gently until the sugar has dissolved and continue to simmer the peel in the syrup, adding the remaining sugar after about ten minutes.

When the syrup has almost been absorbed and becomes sticky to the touch, but before it reaches the brittle, crack stage, transfer the pieces of peel to wire racks. Leave them to dry out, overnight if you can, then roll them in caster sugar and store in an airtight box. Pink-fleshed grapefruit produces a pretty pale-orange peel when crystallised, the yellow-fleshed remains yellow. For the syrup, I prefer the pink-fleshed.

THE PERFECT SHORTBREAD

IT'S AS easy as one, two, three. Literally, one part sugar to two parts butter to three parts flour. Shortbread is a perfect test-treat when baked in nice chunky pieces. Rolled out thinner and baked for 12-15 minutes, the rich, buttery biscuits are excellent accompaniments to desserts.

■ YOU NEED: 100g caster sugar, 200g softened butter and 300g plain flour.

■ METHOD: Mix the ingredients together in a food processor, or by hand, until the mixture binds together. Chill it for 20 minutes and roll out to about 1cm thickness and then transfer to a lined baking sheet.

■ Prick all over with a fork, and then cut into fingers or triangles, and separate slightly. Bake at 180C, gas mark 4, until golden and just set, about 20 minutes.

Transfer to wire racks and cool completely before storing in an airtight tin.

Next week: *The perfect scrambled eggs*



Grapefruit and gin syrup
(makes 250ml)

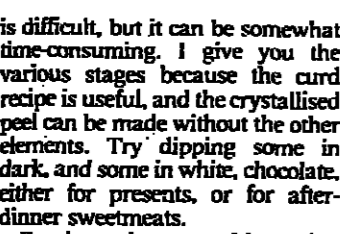
- 250ml pink grapefruit juice
- 300g caster sugar
- 4 crushed juniper berries
- 6 coriander seeds, crushed
- Piece of angelica stalk — optional
- Strip of orange zest
- 2-tbsp gin — Plymouth Gin Export Strength is a good choice

Simmer the juice, sugar and aromatics until the sugar has dissolved, then boil for 5-7 minutes. The aromatics are ingredients in the making of gin, and serve here to heighten its flavour.

Strain, allow to cool slightly and stir in the gin.

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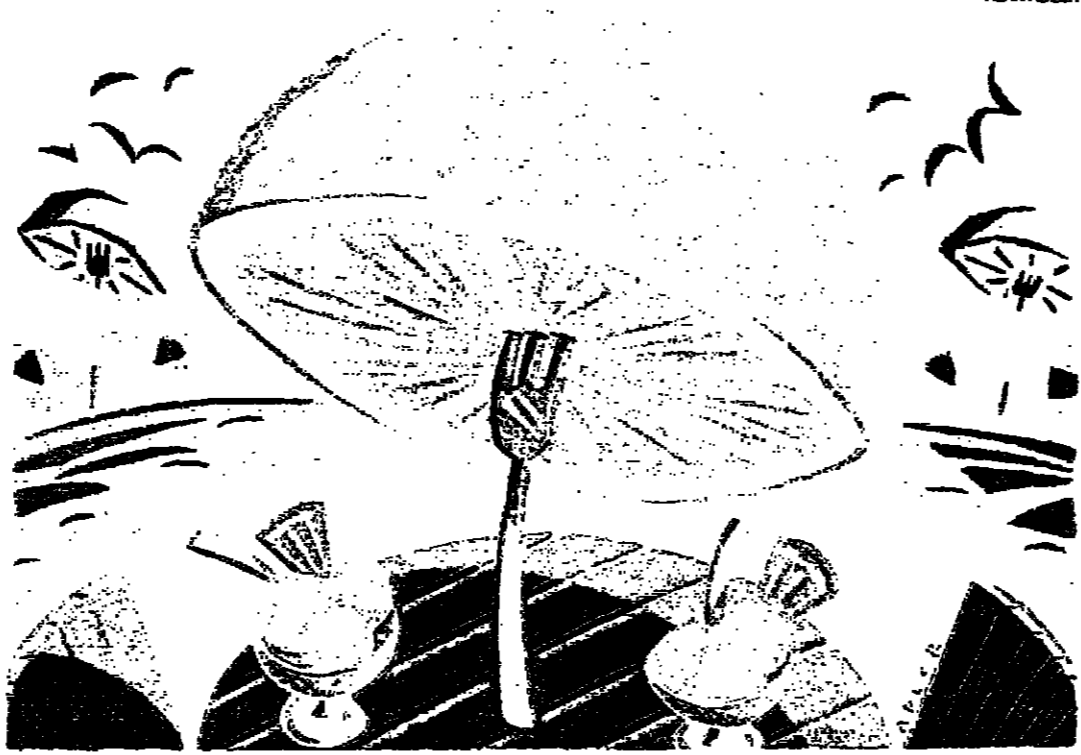
NEXT WEEK:
Celebrate the sandwich



is difficult, but it can be somewhat time-consuming. I give you the various stages because the curd recipe is useful, and the crystallised peel can be made without the other elements. Try dipping some in dark, and some in white, chocolate, either for presents, or for after-dinner sweetmeats.

For the main course, I have chosen tender spring meat, braised with new season's vegetables. At times I have adapted this recipe to lamb, duckling and some exquisite veal that I bought in France, where it is reared with the mother.

You can buy organic veal in Britain from Eastbrook Farm in Wiltshire (mail-order details on 01793 790462). My post bag indicates that many readers would like to buy organic produce if they knew where to find it. Lynda Brown's *Shopper's Guide to Organic Food* solves the problem. Published this month in paperback (Fourth Estate, £7.99), this indispensable guide not only informs where to find the food, but



CONSUMING INTERESTS: FRESH TOMATO SOUPS

Tomato soups remain the best-sellers, but my, how they have changed. Those who buy fresh soups will at least recognise they are made from tomatoes, which was never readily apparent with tomato soup from tins.

While I still have uses for Campbell's Old-Fashioned Tomato Rice Soup (with fresh mince it makes a better bolognese-style sauce than any pre-made sauce you can buy) these are all in a different class. **ROBIN YOUNG**



St Michael Low Fat Tomato & Basil Fresh Soup, £1.19 for 450g, from Marks & Spencer.
Claims: "A smooth soup made with tomatoes and fresh basil."
Verdict: A flavoured, darkly coloured soup which proves you do not need fat to give richness. The whole pack only has 1.8g fat, but a study of the ingredients list reveals it is 25 per cent tomatoes, 4 per cent tomato purée and just 0.7 per cent basil. The basil is perceptible to the eye, but hardly to the taste buds. ★★

Aida Tomato and Basil Soup, 99p for 450ml, plastic sachet.
Claims: "Fresh tomato soup with a distinctive basil flavour. Healthy choice. Less than five per cent fat."
Verdict: A lot of onion in the mix and cheap fillers such as carrot and potato did not pressage well. But the pale-coloured soup tasted recognisably of tomato, if only vaguely of basil. ★

Tesco Fresh Soups Chunky Tomato, £1.09 for 450g plastic sachet.
Claims: "A delicious fresh soup with pieces of chopped tomato and herbs."
Verdict: Herbs are thyme and oregano, not basil. The recipe includes tomato

purée, modified starch, butter and olive oil, and garlic purée. The chunks of tomato were reduced to flavourless lumps of pulp and string, giving an impression of ruined fruit rather than of well-made soup. ★★

Safeway Italian Style Tomato Soup, £1.39 for 500g plastic tub.
Claims: "A fresh soup made from plum tomatoes and Italian white wine with garlic and herbs."
Verdict: A fleshy, attractive soup in which peppers, onions and herbs were in evidence, as well as tomatoes. But excess acidity gave an aggressive edge to the flavour. ★★

The Real Soup Co. Fresh Soup Tomato & Basil, £1.95 for 500g plastic tub, from Harvey Nichols.
Claims: "Made from the best quality fresh ingredients using classic recipes and providing the same attention to detail as you do when you make your own." "No preservatives, colourings or additives."
Verdict: Just seven simple ingredients: vegetable bouillon, tomato, onion, red pepper, basil, sugar, cream. My own attention to detail might have reached to fishing out bits of skin, but I guess they were left there to prove authenticity. Unnecessary: the flavour did all that was required. ★★

Sainsbury's Fresh Tomato and Basil Soup, £1.09 for 500ml.
Claims: "97 per cent fat free, suitable for vegetarians."
Verdict: I thought it tasted of carrot, and indeed carrot is listed as the third largest ingredient — after water and tomatoes. Of the latter, some stringy remains were the best evidence. Incredibly, the recipe is shown as including less vegetable bouillon than salt. Ingredients also include oregano, thyme and parsley as well as basil. Not one I would buy again. ★

MORE FOOD & DRINK IN the times

Jonathan Meades in Birmingham; Jean-Christophe Novelli spoos food with laughter

Skills worth broadcasting

Joe Warwick grills TV's Mark Wogan

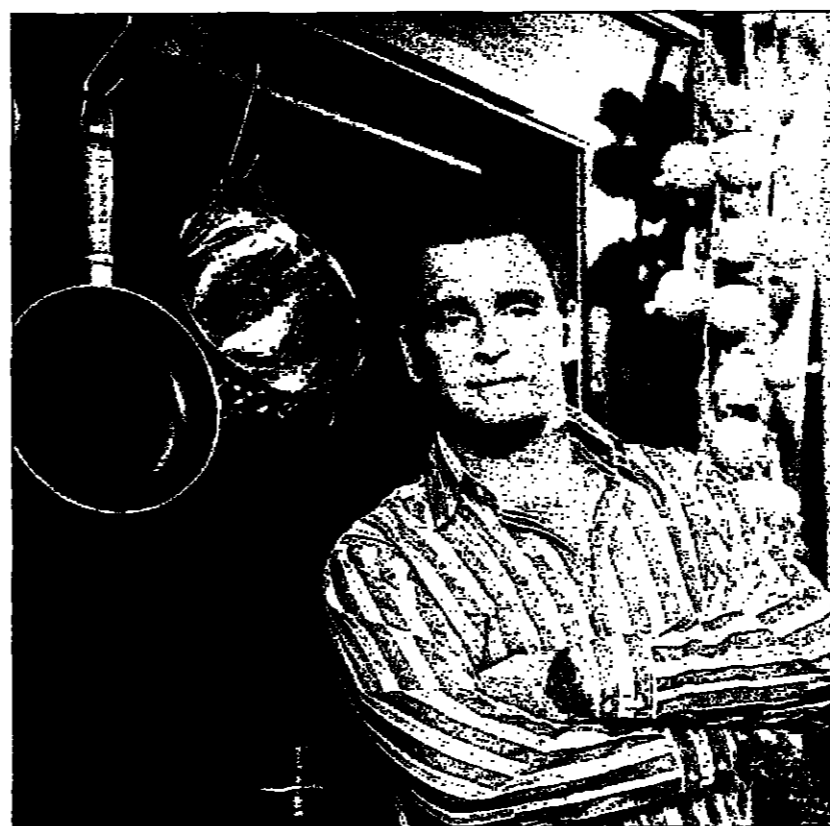
HOME COOKING

Food was an early passion for television presenter Mark Wogan. It started in his mother's kitchen when he was only eight. "I spent a lot of time in the kitchen when I was little. It was the only room in the house that my mother would let me play in because I created such a mess everywhere," he explains.

In those early years his repertoire was limited to baking, and in particular to one variety of cake. "I was obsessed with Madeira cake. I started with cakes because they were the easiest thing to do. There was this recipe for Madeira cake in *The Better Homes Cookbook* which I used to do over and over again. I got to the point where my family said please learn something else. They just couldn't eat anymore of my sponges."

Mark expanded his culinary skills and gradually learnt more recipes, with his task made a lot easier by his mother's skill in the kitchen. "I come from a family of people that have healthy appetites and who like to eat well. The thing is Mum is such a good cook. If you ask anybody who has ever eaten her food they will tell you that she's a phenomenal cook. She puts me to shame. So I was brought up with a very high standard and we were used to eating exotic things."

A description of a recent "particularly extravagant family lunch" (smoked salmon, caviar, foie gras and duck) prepared to celebrate Mark's birthday gives the impression that Mrs Wogan's kitchen is a centre of excellence. Raised on fine food meant that Mark developed a refined palate early in his life. He was mildly obsessed with artichokes at five and revelled in the nickname "the artichoke kid" because he demanded the vegetable in every restaurant he frequented.



Mark presenting his television cookery programme. Right: his interest in all things culinary started early



Terry Wogan, says son Mark, "can't cook"

invented by Napoleon after the battle of Marengo with what was left over in the food stores. It was basically chicken, tomatoes, mushroom and peppers. The only thing his mother's fine cooking could

never make palatable was beetroot. "I still can't eat it. It tastes like mud."

Although Mark worked for a period as a chef, he decided it was not a career he wanted to pursue. "It's the hardest job I think you can do and I admire anyone who can do it. You have to work so hard to get to the level of someone like Gordon Ramsay and even when you are there you have to work twice as hard to maintain it. For me, it took my passion out of food and your passion has to be high to maintain standards. I'm far

happier with food and far more passionate about it the less I have to cook it. When anyone asks me what my favourite dish is, I say anything cooked by somebody else. I actually hate my own food. For me, eating is all about surprise. If you've cooked it yourself there's no surprise because you know what it's going to taste like."

'I hate my own food. Cooking is all about surprise'

His last job made him decide to give it up as a profession: "I was running this catering company and, in the last summer, I had poached 57 salmon. I never wanted to see another salmon."

When he moved into television it was to present cookery programmes such as Channel 4's *Here's One I Made Earlier* and he is now conducting celebrity interviews for ITV's *This Morning*. If he gets the chance to do another cookery programme, he'd "love to get across the entertainment of cooking and not just the educational side that cookery programmes currently concentrate on."

"The big lorry has been coming to our farm for 17 years. If I'd been walking across your lawn for 17 years I'd have a right of way"

High price for a piece of quiet

There are a number of lorry drivers going around now who, in the eyes of the law, are unconvicted criminals. One driver of a five-axle articulated lorry knocked three telegraph poles down. I saw it happen. He got out, pulled the fallen cable clear of his cab, and drove on.

Frank Hounsell is talking about the kind of incident he's witnessed in his part of the Marshwood Vale, an area of outstanding natural beauty in West Dorset. Many of the roads in the Vale are still barely wider than a horse and cart, with steep hedges and banks, and Mr Hounsell, a retired scientific civil servant, feels that it is vandalism to allow massive lorries to drive about freely there.

Five years ago, he compiled a detailed report on the subject, and this spring his work seems, finally, to have borne fruit. The West Dorset District Council has decided to look into the idea of declaring the entire Marshwood Vale a Quiet Area and restricting lorry access. The initial suggestion involved barring any lorries over 2.2m in width, but as this would have affected local industry too severely,

it was altered to a length restriction of 9.75m. Last Tuesday there was a meeting in Mr Hounsell's parish hall at Whitchurch Canoncorum to canvass local opinion.

Although I don't live in the area I went along because, with 44-ton lorries now on the roads, it seemed an issue of national significance. People are worried about the proliferation of huge lorries in rural areas and as Mr Hounsell points out: "As an engineer I know that these vehicles were designed to move goods from port to port or city to city, using A class roads and motorways. Politicians allowed them to move on to more minor roads — because there was no regulation — and there's been chaos ever since."

Mr Hounsell is sensitive to the fact that he's an "outsider" in his village, having lived there only 12 years, but he thinks that professionals like himself have a special contribution to make to rural

communities. He sees the interest of the council as a "grand opportunity to sort out a problem which is only going to get worse".

The local farmers don't share his outlook. On Tuesday they crowded the little parish hall, allowing a few spokesmen to put their point of view.

It was hard not to sympathise as the costs of a lorry restriction were outlined. Already struggling with falling prices, farmers would have to pay hauliers a surcharge to have their straw, fertilizer and feed delivered, and their livestock, cereals and milk collected in smaller

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

vehicles. Even a small farmer could end up losing £4,000 a year.

Christine Bailey, who helps run a 200-cow dairy in the Vale, pointed out the absurdity of suddenly outlawing a way of life that has been going on for nearly 20 years. "The big cake-feed lorry has been coming to our farm for the last 17 years. If I'd been walking across your lawn for 17 years I'd have a right of way."

Her eyes flashing, she had a sharply humorous turn of phrase. When asked if she didn't think gigantic lorries spoil the essential beauty of the Vale, she retorted:

"Not at all. We've learned to live with the pylons, haven't we?"

Being a mother, she does worry about traffic. "I've got four children, one on a DT50 motorcycle, one on a pony and two on pushbikes, but I'm more frightened of fast cars and inconsiderate drivers than I am of traffic." To her, one big articulated lorry is far less environmentally destructive than two or three smaller ones that would have to replace it.

She can't see, either, that things are bound to get worse: 44-ton lorries couldn't invade the Vale because the lanes are simply too small. To her the problem is self-limiting because lorry drivers are so terrified of damaging their expensive vehicles. "A lot of the roads are below field-level, with tall, straight banks. There's no way a lorry would choose to wedge itself between those."

Frank Hounsell doesn't agree. He has a dustbin bag bulging with bits that have

fallen off lorries as they've barreled their way through the lanes. But in the end the argument does come down to one of degree. Christine and the other farmers don't dispute that the odd lorry has caused damage, but they see it as happening too infrequently to justify a ban. The occasional cracked bridge and tippy pole is simply the price that has to be paid for local businesses to survive.

Because the vote at this week's meeting was so strongly against a ban, and the other parishes in the Marshwood Vale are likely to feel the same way, the whole idea will probably be dropped. But it's an issue that is bound to surface again somewhere else. Christine said: "Remember that it was farmers who made the Vale as beautiful as it is now." It all depends, I suppose, on whether you see farming as an essential part of the countryside's future. Not everyone does.

● CORRECTION: The late Mr Ernest Bugler did not, as stated in an article (One man and his dogma, Weekend, April 18), shoot a fox pursued by a hunt on his land. We apologise for the error.



Farewell Alice, pigsty stunner and supersow

Grieve not for dear Alice, says Paul Heiney, but for the pigs who will never know the life she led

I thought you would want to be the first to hear the sad news. Alice, the Large Black sow, has died. But before we embark upon a national outpouring of grief, let us pause in celebration of the life of this remarkable pig, whose career was charted on these pages throughout much of this decade.

I do not want to start counting her column-inches: she was a truly shy creature. But starlets would kill for the attention — and the post — she attracted during her public career. We're talking Pig Power here.

She was born, prematurely, near Norwich in 1989, and that was a bit of a fiasco. As a present for a farming couple who had done me a great kindness, I bought them a pregnant black sow. This, I realise, falls well outside what is usually considered as giftware, but they were extremely pleased at the prospect.

On arriving at the farm to collect the sow, I was told by the vendor that she had already "pigged". He apologised, but explained that she had undergone a "running service" in which she had been left alone in a field with a boar.

I asked how else these things might be arranged and was told by the farmer that he usually put the boar in with the sow and watched all day till the act was done. But that's Norfolk farmers for you.

Out of this alliance came a litter of 13 piglets. They

travelled in the boot of my car, while mother lounged in a trailer behind — in case she lost her balance on the corners and sat on her offspring.

All the way along the A45 I worried about maternal bonding and the distress of separation. Neither mother nor infants seemed to give a damn.

The piglets slept noisily all the way, and no sooner were they reunited than each tiny black creature, no bigger than a lump of coal, slithered across its mother's broad belly till it found a nipple, and hung on for dear life. One of those piglets was destined to be called Alice.

It was six months later, at Christmas time, that my wife lightly requested, "Oh, something expensive, black and sexy".

Well, by now, the teenage Alice was sexy all right: she sported a shapely pair of back legs and trotters, on which she strutted around looking like a flustered barmaid in black tights and stilettos. She was a stunner. Pig prices were up at the time, so she was expensive enough too, I bought her.

On Christmas morning I adorned her with a red bow and notionally gave her to my wife. She (the pig, not the wife) became the foundress of our farm.

It was soon after Alice came

to live with us that revelations about her private life started to appear on these pages, and I take full responsibility for these gross intrusions.

Isn't it funny how you always want to say sorry when it is too late? I wanted to apologise for ever for saying that, from a distance, "she looked like a cannonball on the move" — or that she had "lost her maidenhood to a hairy boar from Bury St Edmunds." Shameful tales to tell of a lady.

Her first confinement happened in the middle of the night when she did her Quasimodo impersonation — using a heavy, cast-iron feeding ring, throwing it into the air with her powerful snout and allowing it to fall from a great height on to the concrete, with a noise like all the bells of hell. After that, each time the chimes rang out, we knew piglets were on the way.

She farrowed with little trouble, which I remember as being a great relief.

Especially as I once read in an old farming manual that "there are few problems in farrowing that cannot be solved by good humour and a plentiful supply of lard."

At moments like this it is not proper to talk of her failings, but it was well known that she was a danger, particularly to



Paul with Alice, left, and Polly. Alice died in her sleep, three years into retirement

me, at certain times in her reproductive cycle.

Pheromones appear to jump species very readily: in morning feeding time, I would notice that she was playful, running her black snout the length of my trouser leg, giggling like a schoolgirl. That was harmless enough. But if, 24 hours later, no boar had appeared to fulfil her natural urges, she was more than ready to chase anything in trousers round the field, and many is the time I have resorted to jumping the electric fence, fending her off with the bucket. It was no place for an innocent. My wife had to protect my virtue by taking over feeding for a few days.

She died peacefully in her sleep, three years into

retirement after her last bout of fertility, and was buried beneath her apple tree.

Before we allow too much sentimentality to slosh over us so that the Social Affairs Unit condemns us all as cry-babies, there is a serious point to all this.

Alice was allowed the sort of life which a pig would choose, if anyone could be bothered to ask. There was no confinement in darkened sheds, no cramped crates, no routine medication, no performance-enhancing drugs.

So grieve not for dear Alice, for she had the best of it. Instead, be sorry for all the other sows, who dreamed of a life like hers and were deprived of it.

● Paul Heiney has two books published this month. His first novel, *Domino's Effect* (Hodder and Stoughton), and *Home Farm* (Dorling Kindersley).

'She ran her snout along my trouser leg, giggling like a schoolgirl'

Songbird does a vanishing trick

FEATHER REPORT

SEDGE warblers are back in Britain, after a winter spent in the marshes of tropical Africa. As usual, they are in good form, singing vigorously in osiers and brambles alongside our own rivers and ponds.

They have a song like a stewpot, with every kind of note thrown in — chinkings, grating notes, rich whistles and trills, and very often the notes of other birds that they can hear singing round them. This is all delivered with great vigour.

However, now you see them, now you don't. Sometimes one will sing quite happily on an exposed twig, and let you get close enough to see clearly the dark bars on its rather flat crown, its very distinctive creamy eye-stripe, and its streaky brown back. Sometimes it will even leap in the air while singing, then dive down again.

At other times these little birds lurk in the middle of a bramble bush, singing as they move about, but quite impossible to see among the dense foliage and thorns. It can be very frustrating. You put your eye right up against the bush where there is a crack in the leaves, but you can see no sign of the owner of the voice, who is perhaps not more than two feet away from you.

Last week I actually witnessed (if that is the word) a complete territorial battle between two sedge warblers without seeing either of them while it was going on. I found one singing just as I have described in a long, rolling bramble hedge. A moment later another struck up a few yards further along the hedge, starting with some chinking notes, then bursting into rapid trills. The first bird's voice moved towards it, and the second bird's voice retreated and stopped. The first bird moved back to its starting point, still singing. But then I heard the second bird start up again only a couple of feet

from the first. This time it stood its ground. There was a vigorous song-duel — and then at last I saw the first bird, as it flew out of the bush and low across a canal to some willows on the other side. It had lost the battle — and I had never seen the winner.

There was a chaffinch nearby all this time, calling with that short, splashing note that notes of other birds that they can hear singing round them. This is all delivered with great vigour.

When it is in subdued vein, you can confuse a singing sedge warbler with a reed warbler. If you see the bird, there is no difficulty in knowing which it is, since the reed warbler, though somewhat similar, lacks the creamy eye-stripe. But the reed warbler's song is like a sedge warbler's with the best bits left out.

Sedge warblers sometimes nest at quite a distance from water in oiled rape, or even in small pines and firs at the edge of a young plantation. There are millions of them in the marshes of Russia and eastern Europe, but even in Britain, which is not at the heart of their world range, there are usually about 300,000 pairs nesting each summer. So one has a good chance of stumbling across this spirited little bird.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about: *Spiders* — Watch out for spotted flycatchers in woods, parks and large gardens.

Twitchees — Squacco Heron at Fenshorpe Waterfowl park, Norfolk; White-bellied Diver at Fenshorpe, Orkney; Dotterel at Baldock, Herts.

Details from *Birdline* 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.



The sedge warbler's song heralds its return from Africa

ON THE SPOT: HERTFORDSHIRE

Rural recommendations

The Place: the Roman Theatre of Verulamium, St Albans. The view beside a grassy mound and surrounded by green fields lie the flint remains of the theatre. The arena and stage are clearly defined and on the right a sign highlights where the dressing room once stood.

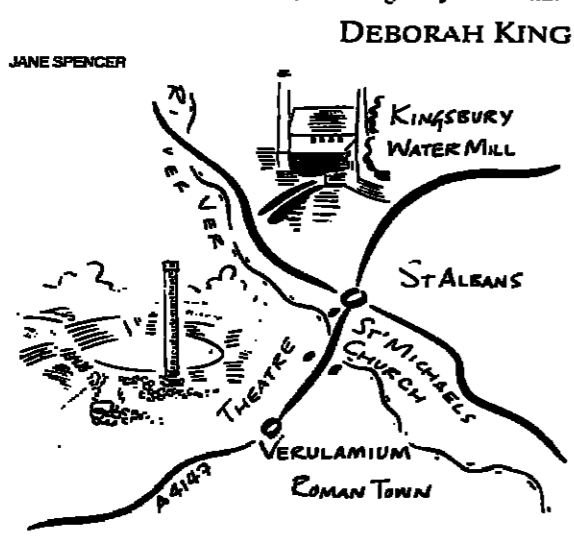
Afficionados: historians and visitors to St Albans.

Historical interest: it was completed about AD200 to accommodate 2,000 spectators and is the only completely exposed Roman theatre in England. The arena was used for wrestling, bear-baiting and armed combat. Flint from the walls was later used to construct St Albans Cathedral.

OS ref: 134/075 on sheet 166

How to get there: take A4147 to Bluehouse Hill and the theatre is opposite St Michael's church.

Also nearby: Verulamium museum with Roman life recreated in a series of rooms, and Kingsbury Watermill.



'I laughed more than ever before'

The third Mel Calman award attracted more than 300 entries from young cartoonists

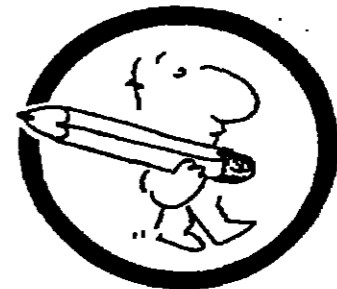
The winner of the third Mel Calman award is Darren Rolfe, who takes home £1,500 for his irreverent behind-the-scenes look at a Rolling Stones tour.

The competition, which honours the late Mel Calman, *The Times*' pocket cartoonist, aims to encourage young artists and help them to find new markets for their work.

David Driver, the head of design at *The Times* and one of the judges of the competition, said: "We had a bigger entry than last year — more than 300 entries — and of a higher standard."

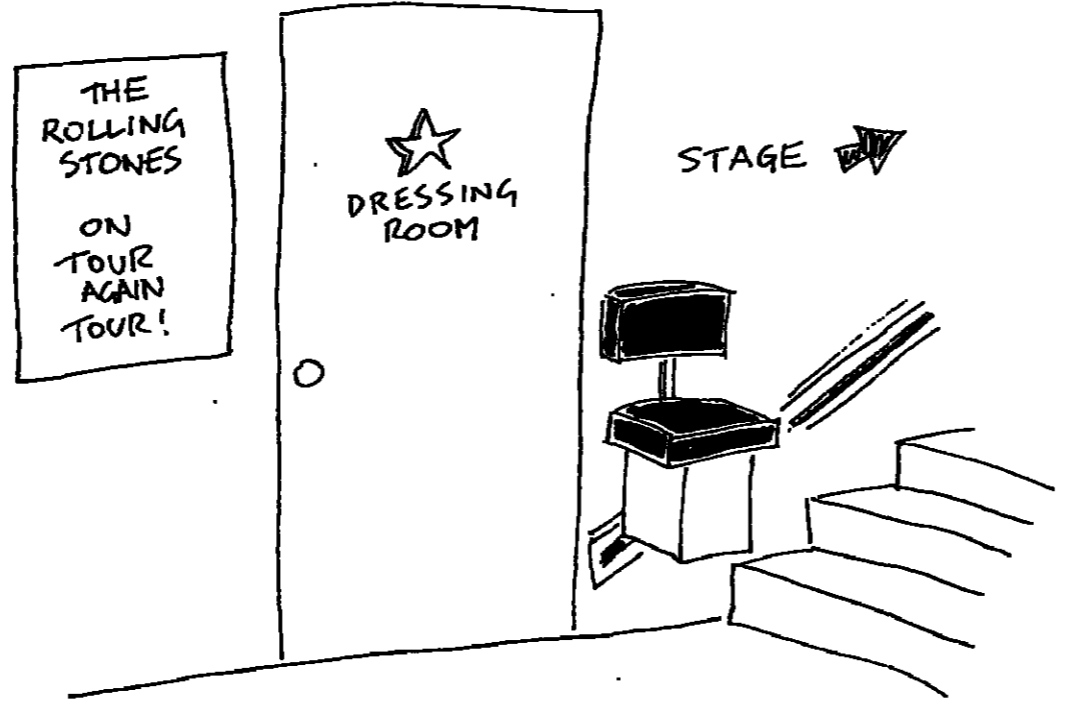
"In fact I laughed more than ever before, but admittedly it was a good year for satire, what with the antics of Clinton and Blair's spin-doctors."

Because of the size of the entry the awards were divided into under-30 and under-18 categories. The under-30 runners-up, who receive £300, were Matt Buck, Stuart Taylor and Iain Green. The under-18 category was won jointly by Kate Ware and Dylan Lategan who each win £500.



Peter Brookes, *The Times*' political cartoonist and also on the jury, explained that what impressed him most about Rolfe was his consistency: "Lots of people can do one funny cartoon but the real trick is to be able to do lots. A good selection of his is evidence of professionalism."

● The 42 short-listed entries will be displayed at the Postal Museum, (0171-239 5426) alongside the *Comedian Stamps* by Gerald Scarfe until May 13.



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The walls come tumbling down

Opening up the kitchen into a dining and sitting area can add value to a home and also create a more relaxing atmosphere.

Rachel Kelly reports

Architects and designers have a new rallying cry: we should change our houses to reflect the way we live.

Out go poky kitchens sandwiched into back extensions and in come larger spaces in which to eat, live and cook. Farewell to houses where there is a ratio of one bathroom to four bedrooms. Instead, we should enjoy houses that reflect the bathroom's new 1990s role as en suite sanctuary.

So says Keith Atkins, a designer who helps run Alternative Plans, a Battersea kitchen and bathroom shop. "People are increasingly living in one space. Instead of having their kitchens in what was traditionally the scullery in Victorian houses, people are moving their kitchen to what was traditionally the reception room at the front, to create one big family area."

Yet the mass of Victorian and Edwardian semis and cottages in our cities are still being used in the way they were 100 years ago.

The standard arrangement is to keep the kitchen in the extension at the back, while leaving the two reception rooms as a living area, often knocked-through, in an arrangement that loses the architectural spaces and fails to provide a large kitchen.

William Gething, of buyers agent Property Vision, is at the cutting edge of what buyers want. "Kitchens have become the nucleus of the home," he says. "They are where you eat, play and work. So much has changed in a generation. We crave larger spaces now. We don't have servants skulking in the basements."

People are increasingly seeking clean living space, helped by plenty of storage, in their homes," he says.

Such change is easily achievable. Unless your house is listed, and as long as you leave the front elevation looking like its neighbours, planning regulations are generous. You can usually remodel the

inside of most houses without a planning application, and you can generally extend your living space by 10 per cent — or up to 50 cubic metres in a terrace and 70 cubic metres for a detached house — but check with the local council.

Whether you need planning permission or not, you will almost certainly require Building Regulation approval. Check before starting work.

The buzz-words in the kitchen business are "multi-functional" and "integration", say architects Tim Boyd and Alex Michaelis. They have designed John and June Summerill's kitchen: a confection of glass and stainless steel complemented by adjacent living room, dining area and garden. Their clients are cooking enthusiasts: June Summerill owns the cult cook shop Summerill & Bishop in Notting Hill Gate, West London.

Mr Michaelis says the design combines functionality with simplicity. "The kitchen has a very simple, clean and spacious feel," he says. "It provides a flexible cooking environment while maximising space and light."

Journalist Fiona Murphy is among those who have taken the redesign plunge. She has devoted the basement of her four-storey west London home to her nanny and moved her kitchen into the drawing room. "I wanted the room with the best light and highest ceilings to be where we spent most time," she says.

Ms Murphy designed the kitchen herself and believes it is a natural living space, as well as a cooking area.

Kevin McCloud, a designer who presents the BBC's *Home Front*, agrees. "Houses built in the last century or before were designed for a way of life that was much more formal than today's, usually involving at least one domestic servant. Yet few of us have bothered to change them to suit our new style of living."



Fiona Murphy moved her kitchen into the drawing room — the room with the best light and highest ceilings, and where she spent most time

"When you think how much time we spend at home, and how much of that is spent in the kitchen, and how we like to juggle our cooking with entertaining — it makes sense to devote the largest area to a kitchen-cum-dining room, with a sofa in the corner and a television to one side."

Bathrooms, too, are being reinvented by adventurous

home-owners. As is often the case, developers are taking the lead.

Linda Beaney Pearce, of agents Beaney Pearce, which specialises in new schemes, says: "As far as the development market is concerned, the ratio of acceptability of bathrooms to bedrooms over the past ten years is moving towards one-to-one."

Guy Forster, from agents Friend & Falcke, says the adventurous are even putting baths into bedrooms.

Some developers recommend remodeling a top flat in a standard terrace by getting permission to put a mansard on the back roof. Instead of a sloping roof with an unusable loft, the roof becomes square at the back, creating an

extra room. This could become a double-height reception room, overlooking a galleried kitchen, for example.

If you do not own the property freehold, you will need to buy a licence from the freeholder to create the mansard and you may have to take responsibility for roof maintenance afterwards.

Or you can glass in the gap between the kitchen and the boundary wall to form a conservatory-type dining room. Planning rules generally allow you to build up to two metres on the boundary with your neighbour, or from the height of the existing walls, and then at 45 degrees towards your own property.

Additional research by Ben Norman

SMART MOVES



Thatcher: flat hunting

Baroness Thatcher has been flat-hunting in Gibraltar. She went round Cormanac Wharf, a Taylor Woodrow development of upmarket flats in neo-classical style. Two-bedroom flats are priced from £185,000-£235,000 and three-bedroom from £285,000-£295,000.

Robin Millar, Sade's record producer, is selling his £750,000 Georgian terrace, with recording studio, in Hammersmith Grove, west London, through Marsh & Parsons.

Joe Tilson, the artist, has put his Grade II-listed Georgian house, the Old Rectory, in Christian Malford, near Chippenham, Wilt, on the market for £800,000 with Strutt and Parker.

Bill Athey, the English cricketer who retired last year, has sold his seven-acre Sussex farmhouse in Loughton, near Lewes, for £300,000 through agents Strutt & Parker.

Tom Watkins, the pop star manager whose clientele includes East 17, is selling his four-storey Venice for £1.5m through Behr and Butchoff. The house has a 40ft basement pool but only two bedrooms.

Margary Fish's former home, Lambrook Manor, near South Petherton, Somerset, is for sale through Michael de Pelet and Knight Frank for £580,000. Ms Fish was a plant expert and the garden is Grade I listed.

RK

You have only to watch the opening sequence of the TV series *The Darling Buds of May* to see the appeal of an oast house. These delightful rural buildings, with their round or square towers and "dunce's cap" crows, are common to Kent and the first time I saw one I wanted to live in it.

A word of warning, however: converting an agricultural building is a minefield of planning regulations and problems. Many oasts have no damp-proofing or windows and the round rooms need tailor-made furniture. You have to be prepared to fight with the planners and cope with setbacks of the most unexpected kind. And while I am on the subject of problems, I would like to say that planning officials are frightful people — a pox on them all.

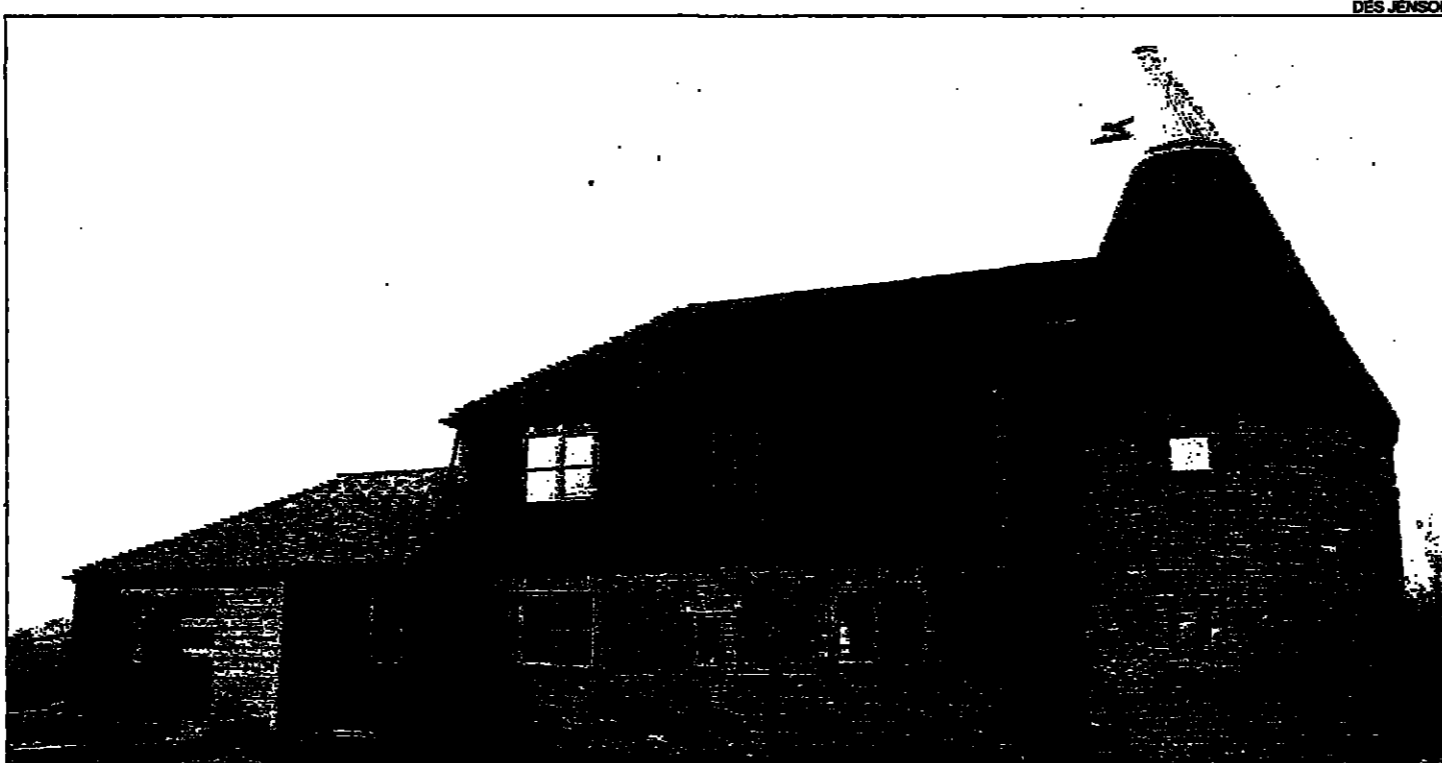
We started looking at oasts in 1994 but soon realised that the converted variety were out of our price range. Instead, we looked at unconverted ones and discovered how astonishingly popular they were. Usually the property went to sealed bids, a hateful process in which we put in a written offer and waited to be turned down.

And so we embarked on two years of madness — driving around Kent at weekends and after work, knocking on farmers' doors and saying, sometimes ten times a day: "Excuse me, but would you like to sell your oast house?" The ones we saw varied enormously — there was no formal design for oasts and they are all different — but we really wanted a brick one because the wooden ones tended to be in a poor condition.

By May 1996 I was preparing to give up, when fortune smiled. I was driving around one summer evening when I saw a small oast with a passion flower growing exuberantly up the roundel. I asked the farmer if he wanted to sell the oast. "I might," he said, "if you can tell me what that symbol is on the weathervane." I peered about 500 yards through the fading light and said: "It's a Spitfire." He was surprised. "Fancy a woman knowing a thing like that," he said. "Just fancy." He invited me to come back on Sunday and bring my husband. They're a bit like that in Kent.

On the Sunday we went back and inspected the oast, with its dirt floors and resident pigeons, and shook hands on £120,000.

Spitfire Oast, as it became, was at the edge of what had been High Halden Airfield, from which the Thousand Bomber raids went up during the Second World War. We loved it from the start but immediately ran into problems with the planners at Ashford Borough Council who said they were inclined not to grant planning permission but did not give a reason.



Set in the heart of rural Kent, the exterior of Spitfire Oast during the renovation work, which took a total of eight months to complete

In the round and turned upside-down

Despite the council's planning officers, Mary Arnold managed to convert a dilapidated oast into a comfortable home

We had applied for planning permission on a building we did not yet own and were running up a large bill with the architect. It took 11 nail-biting months for them to decide that we could live in it. A secretary, tired of answering our calls, hinted that the application had been of that time.

However, when we finally got the permission, they said we had to remove the Georgian-style windows (which were only two years old) and replace them with less attractive ones. All this on a building which was not listed.

The planning officer said the oast needed underpinning, the builder said it didn't. It had, after all, stood there since 1820 without hinting that it might fall down. No, said the planning officer: "We need an expert opinion." So a surveyor was called, who said it did not need underpinning and was paid £350 for his trouble. But the local council planner wanted yet another opinion. Second expert and yet another

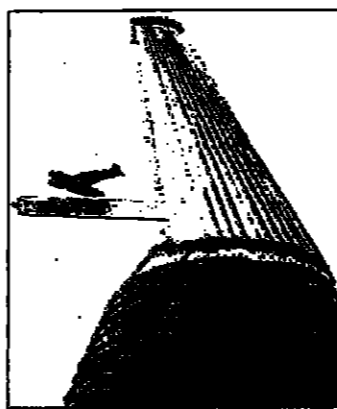
£350 later, the council planner finally gave in.

We wanted a church-style front door with an arched top. Out of the question, said the planners, we had to have a standard front door; but we could change it at a later date if we wanted to. Madness.

We found metal grilles which had been used in wartime to stop the planes sinking into the ground and decided they would be ideal as balcony railings. But a balcony was completely out of the question, said the planners.

Our architect said he had submitted plans for a stand-alone garage away from the house. We told him we did not want a stand-alone garage, or any garage for that matter, and he said: "I know that, but it will give them something to turn down and distract them from other things." This man was a loss to the diplomatic corps.

We chose the Renaissance Foundation, a small building firm



Distinctive weathervane, the model of a Spitfire, attached to the cowling of the oast house

(much cheaper), and looked at examples of its work before committing ourselves. I stood among the old machinery and bird droppings and was at a loss to visualise how it could ever become a home. But the builders worked like Trojans and every weekend the place looked different. Recognising me as a ditherer, they used their own initiative and came up with exactly what we had in mind. They emptied the whole place, laid concrete floors (downstairs), replaced the windows (hurumph), put

in walls, insulation and wiring and then covered over the lot using a ton of plaster.

The ladder to the first floor was replaced with an oak staircase which we found in a field. Three huge sets of beams, some 6ft long, were put in the upstairs barn section which has become our living and dining room because the views are spectacular. Downstairs are three bedrooms, a bathroom and a shower room.

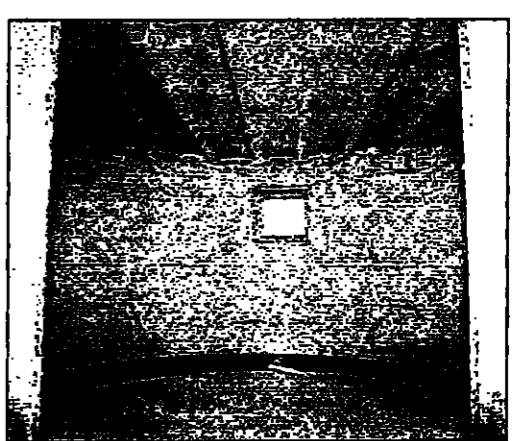
Ray, the builder, was tactful but firm. The roughly-plastered walls I had hankered after would not fit in with the oast's age, but I could have rough plaster between the ceiling beams. I wanted a spare bedroom open to the rafters. Too expensive to heat, he said, and what about loft storage? And forget about terracotta walls: magnolia would be best to display the beams.

We were quoted £60,000 to be connected to a gas supply, so we settled for electric cooking and oil-fired central heating. Then we came to the difficult part — putting a kitchen into a round room. Several designers shook their heads, but we found a helpful lady called Julie at MFI who listened to our problem, drew around a plate and designed the whole caboodle. We chose Shaker-style units (singles; doubles would not fit) and bought six beech breakfast bars for the work surface since standard work surfaces were not wide enough.

The work surface must have been a nightmare to fit since the roundel was not completely round but somehow Ray managed to do it,



The difficult round kitchen, above, which defeated many designers; and, right, before its transformation; Mary Arnold, below right, goes up the oak staircase to the living room, which has spectacular views



without swearing, and very nice it looks, too. Because the kitchen was upstairs and would not take a tiled floor, I painted it like a chessboard instead.

Painting the walls was a trial since new plaster soaks up paint like mad. Then we discovered Paintmate, which you strap on your back like an urban spaceman and fill with Dulux Once emulsion. We whizzed over the whole place in a week. To keep costs down we hunted our local auction rooms, buying furniture, light fittings and a glorious stained-glass window to divide the living-dining area.

Two bedrooms and the bathroom still need decorating and the plan-

ners are after us because we have not yet declared which plants we are going to put in the garden (can you believe it?). Despite that, it is the nicest house I have ever lived in.

We had our first dinner party there last weekend and sat around the table cracking jokes. (Here is a sample: how many planning officers does it take to change a light bulb? Go away, we're not changing anything.) We ate foie gras and roast guinea fowl and throughout the meal we toasted the builders in claret and beer — made, of course, from the finest hops ever grown in Kent.

Renaissance Foundation (01622 693821 or mobile 0973 341509)

A slice of the sublime for sale in Chiantishire

Before committing yourself to buying a Tuscan house, take a swig of Brunello wine, advises Andrew Yates



One of the nine isolated farm houses which are for sale on the wine estate, Castel Giocondo in Tuscany, Italy

ESTATE OF THE WEEK

Within the fortified walls of Montalcino, we were sitting in a bar surrounded by locals drinking grappa, comparing the thick Brunello red wines from various local estates. Brunello di Montalcino ranks among Italy's finest and there are few better restoratives after a day's house hunting.

The houses in question are an hour's drive south of Siena, behind the town through wooded hills and along a private drive on the largest estate producing Brunello. In the distance, we could hear the baying of hounds on a boar hunt. Castel Giocondo, an estate with 400 acres of rolling vineyards and hundreds more of truffle-growing woodland, encourages the huntsmen.

The estate is owned by the Frescobaldi, one of Italy's better-known aristocratic families which boasts 700 years of wine-making history. The family regularly invites the Prince of Wales to stay at their villa, designed by Michelangelo. Currently, they are selling off nine farmhouses; they are in poor condition, and one or two of them are little more than a pile of stones — the sort of ruins to fire romantic imaginations and inspire visions of a Bertoluccian idyll. "You are buying a house on the Italian equivalent of something like the Badminton estate," says Bill Thomson, the agent.

Romantics should, however, take a good swig of Brunello before committing themselves. Although each of these houses is in a beautiful and isolated



The Frescobaldi family, above, wine-makers for 700 years, and the estate's chapel, right

setting on the estate, and each is offered with five acres of land for the requisite swimming pool and garden, the costs involved in their transformation are enormous. The stone houses are little changed since they were built in the 18th century. Upstairs are the living quarters — one farmhouse still has the mangle in its washroom — and downstairs are the cow stalls where huge arches, hammer-beamed ceilings and stone-slabbed floors worn smooth by hooves would have any interior designer with a rustic bent

gushing with superlatives. The farmhouses were last inhabited some 40 years ago and, apart from the odd visit from parties of boar hunters and grape pickers, they have been abandoned.

Collapsed outbuildings, tileless roofs and rotten floorboards are commonplace. The most complete building is a chapel attached to one of the largest houses. The altar remains *in situ*, albeit with shotgun cartridges on the floor. Tranquillity and privacy are ensured here, although farmwork could disturb siestas during the grape harvest. So, too, is security, for the estate is well patrolled by Frescobaldi employees.

The prices range from £250,000 for a four-bedroom house with outbuildings, to £550,000 for a potential 12-bedroom villa. You can expect to pay double for the finished product, and John Mortimer, the Tuscan veteran who coined the epithet Chiantishire, suggests that experts should be enlisted for any property conversion.

In the land of Machiavelli and the Borgia Popes, corruption is seen as a necessary way of life: "A rich dress designer, say, wants to build herself a house. The government planning officer takes a year or two to pass the plans. Then, as the building work continues, he changes his mind continually. The drains are put in and judged unsatisfactory so they have to be replaced. The walls are too high and have to be pulled down and rebuilt. The distraught dress designer is at her wits' end, until someone suggests that a bribe would grease the wheels. Money is handed over and the building is approved and finished. When it all comes out, the dress designer is thrown into a prison and the civil servant never gets prosecuted."

Bill Thomson offers to oversee the conversions of these houses for a fixed sum, to be negotiated. He also organises holiday lets for the larger restored farmhouses, which could be rented out for up to £3,000 per week. One of the area's biggest fans is Tony Blair, who stayed last year at the Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson's £3 million villa, near San Gimignano.

"There's so much history and culture, the weather's great, and I like the wine. It's fantastic. A lot of British people come here every year in some places they are more numerous than the Italians," said Mr Blair.

Mr Mortimer is phlegmatic about his compatriots. "The British in Chiantishire are just like the British everywhere," he says. "Expatriates are very strange but they behave well. The only complaint is that there are too many of us, and you can now buy cornflakes and marmalade in little village shops."

One advantage of the fortified town of Montalcino and its surrounding area is that it is less popular with the British than other areas of Tuscany,



Brunello di Montalcino, a Castel Giocondo red wine

But Tony Blair's appreciation of wine will doubtless lead him to that cool bar, from which we emerged with woolly heads, where he too will test the relative merits of full-bodied Brunellos. And then Montalcino, like the rest of Tuscany, will be swamped in a cornflake-munching tide of Cool Britannia.



HOME SWAP

Maida Vale, with its garden squares, white stucco terraces and red-brick mansions, is built on land once owned by the Church Commissioners. A two-bedroom flat, with high ceilings and garden views, costs around £300,000. The most expensive homes overlook the Regents Park canal — an area known as Little Venice including Blomfield Road and Maida Avenue, where four-storey stucco-fronted houses fetch around £1.75m.

The Wyke valley, west of Salisbury, Wiltshire, an area of unspoilt countryside and pretty villages, close to the A303 for easy access to London, is highly sought-after. Expect to pay £250,000 to £400,000 for a detached three to four-bedroom cottage with a quarter acre garden, for £500,000 for a farmhouse. Larger country houses in good condition fetch around £1m, according to Woolley & Wallis.

With rising prices in the home counties, London buyers looking for family homes are moving to the West Country. The area around Newton Abbot is a popular choice. Close to the A38, under three hours from Paddington by fast train, you can buy a detached four-bedroom period cottage with paddocks and orchards for £170,000; a manor house from £750,000.



This double-fronted semi-detached four-bedroom 19th century house in Maida Vale, is available at £795,000. (Arlington Residential, 0171-722 3322.)



For even less (£750,000) you can buy Cortington Manor, a seven-bedroom Grade II listed 17th century manor house for modernisation, in 4.4 acres, at Corton, in the Wyke Valley. (Lane Fox, 0171-499 4785 or Woolley & Wallis, 01722 424524.)



Spend a similar sum (£750,000) in Devon and you can become the proud owner of Denbury Manor, an eight-bedroom Grade II listed 17th century manor house in 13.75 acres of gardens, woodland and paddocks, near Newton Abbot. (Knight Frank, 01392 423111.)

CHERYL TAYLOR

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1. Tony Blair
2. The Duchess of York
3. Princess Margaret
4. Sting
5. John Mortimer
6. Matthew Spender
7. Dame Muriel Spark
8. Lord Lambton
9. Paul Smith
10. Lord Glimour

Don't forget the water supply

MARKET COMMENT

THE STAMPING ground of the English aristocracy, Tuscany is perhaps the most expensive part of rural Italy. Picturesque towns and historic hilltop villages, dazzling art, a perfect climate and wonderful food and wine — the poet Shelley's "paradise for exiles" has them all, Cheryl Taylor writes.

Prices are highest in the Pisa-Siena-Florence triangle. Cottages, in conditions ranging from derelict to a pile of Etruscan stones, fetch upwards of £40,000, while semi-restored farmhouses go for £150,000 or more. With the pound at its best rate for decades, Britons can buy more house for their money, according to Italian property specialist Brian A. French & Associates. For example, a habitable five-bedroom stone farmhouse nestling amid olive terraces, near Cortona, south of Florence, will cost around £250,000. A similar house in its raw state might fetch £100,000 and cost another £80,000 to restore.

A more affordable Tuscan hideaway can be found in the north of the region, beyond the walled town of



Vineyard Castello di Volpaia

Luca. Prices slip in the steep hills and river valleys around the old spa town of Bagni di Luca. Village houses cost from £25,000; large semi-restored farmhouses average £76,000, while derelicts sell for upwards of £18,000. Once restored, old Tuscan farmhouses, with swimming pools and views can be let for up to £1,000 a week in summer.

Mugello, a green mountainous region northeast of Florence, is littered with crumbling fortresses which once guarded the border of the old Florentine state. Village houses and small

BUYING IN ITALY

WHEN buying in Italy hire a lawyer. It is common for homes to be jointly owned and may not be sold without everyone's consent. Your solicitor should ensure there are no outstanding taxes. The initial contract is a legal promise to proceed, and involves financial penalties for either party if they pull out.

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If you sell within the first five years and are not a resident, you pay capital gains tax on any profits of between 10 and 40 per cent. An annual tax is payable on buildings at 0.4 per cent to 0.6 per cent of value.

Cheryl Taylor is the author of *Your Own Second Home in Europe* (Fleet Street Publications Ltd, £14.95, 071-447 4088).
Brian A. French & Associates (0171-254 0114); Knight Frank (071-629 8171); Italian lawyer Giovanni Lombardo, Studio Legale Lombardo (071-735 8304).

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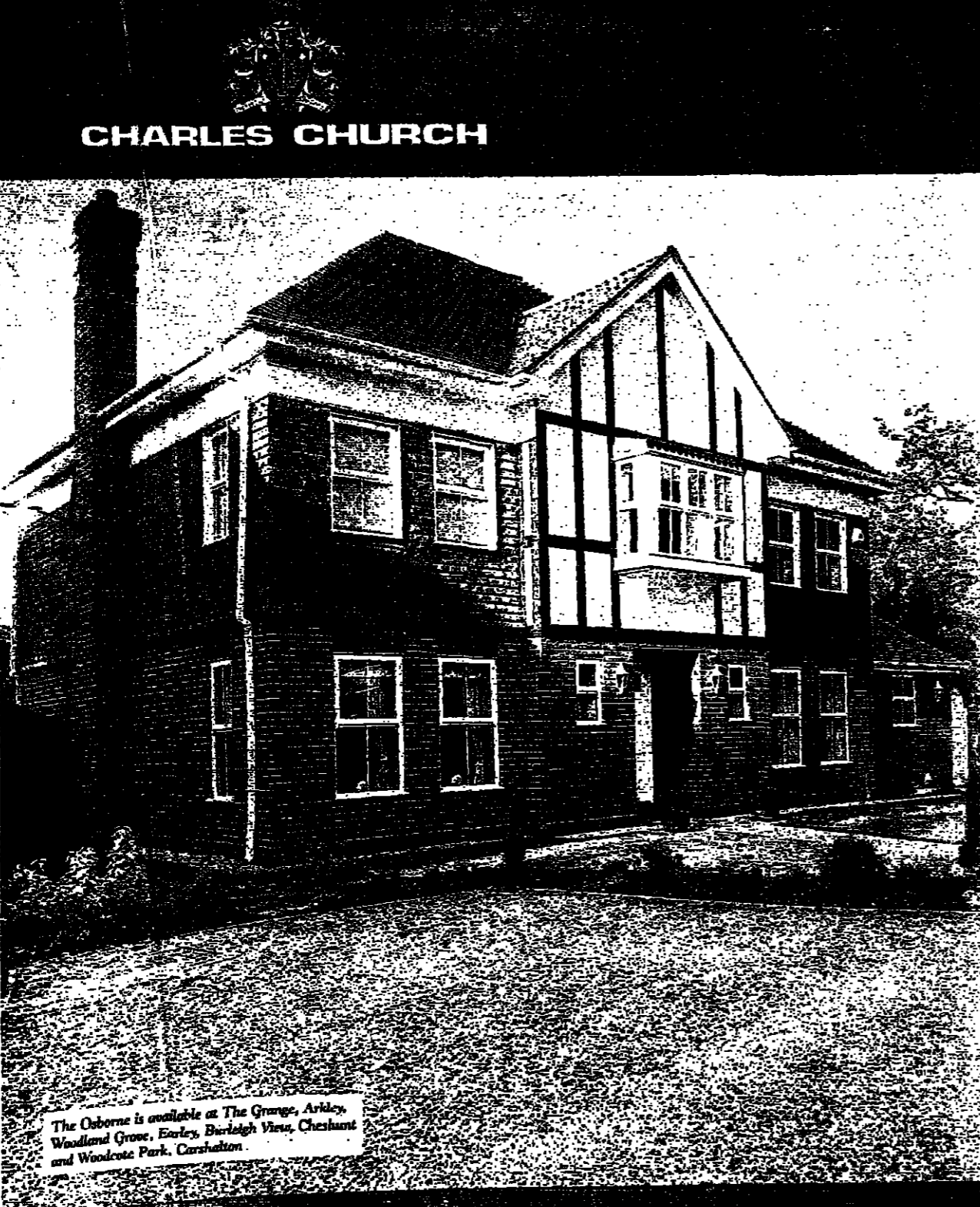
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Life grows on in their memory

Memorial gardens often provide comfort and hope after the loss of a loved one, writes Barbara Abbs

When lives have been cut short by accident or disease, the need for something tangible as a memorial can often be intense and calls for something more than an ephemeral memorial service, however beautiful. Creating a garden which can be enjoyed by the living is a way of looking forward as well as of remembering the dead. Memorial gardens are to comfort the living and they cannot do that if they are shoddy and poorly maintained. One exquisite memorial garden where this has been properly considered is the roof garden at the Royal Marsden Hospital in South Kensington. It was designed by Simon Ann Dorin as a memorial to her daughter Lucy McIndoe, 26, who was a patient in 1990 and whose idea it was.

"Lucy said to me 'Why don't you build a wonderful garden Mum, because when I'm gone you'll have nothing to do,'" says Ms Dorin. There was nowhere outside that she could go to talk to her family and friends away from the bustle, the distractions and the smooth and hygienic surfaces of the ward.

Ms Dorin is a garden and interior designer, and it took several years after Lucy died for the seed to germinate. Two years ago, on what would have been Lucy's birthday, Ms Dorin started to think about the idea seriously: "I believe that beautiful things are very healing and provide a sense of hope for anyone who is trying to get better after a tragedy," she says.

She coaxed the project and with the help of the Royal Marsden's League of Friends, launched an appeal to raise the necessary £25,000 to transform a wall in the middle of the hall blocks of the hospital adjacent to the chapel roof into an oasis. The fund has also provided sufficient money for a maintenance contract.

The garden, which opened last year, is for patients and their visitors only. The floor is

paved and the plants are in tubs and pots supplied and planted at cost by Clifton Nurseries. The area is surrounded by trellis on three sides, to give a sense of enclosure, and it provides support for climbing plants and screens off the wards that surround it.

In the centre there is space for tables shaded by large umbrellas, chairs and loungers with soft cushions in restful greens. "The garden was designed very much for the living; we wanted to steer away from the memorial aspect," says Ms Dorin, "and provide tranquillity and encouragement and a lovely place to be."

The trellis is planted with honeysuckle, jasmine, climbing roses, clematis and vines. In large *cassies de Versailles*, standard lollipop of evergreen clematis and white double-flowered cherry trees on tall trunks are underplanted with trailing ivy, seasonal flowers and trailing herbs. Other pots and planting boxes contain neatly trimmed evergreens like yew and box.

In spring, scented white narcissus echo the cool blossom of the flowering cherries. Later, hydrangeas, ceanothus, the roses and bedding plants give colour. A wall fountain adds the gentle sound of running water and there are two pieces of contemporary sculpture and a carved slate plaque which dedicates the garden to "Lucy and Friends."

All the artefacts, the containers and trellis have been carefully chosen to be both beautiful and durable. "The design was a sense of informal romantic within a formal structure which is comforting and eases the spirit," says Ms Dorin.

The Irish National War Memorial Gardens in Dublin were designed by Edwin Lutyens. Holly trees represented generals and cherry trees the "foot soldiers". It was a memorial to nearly 50,000 and



Simon Ann Dorin in the garden she created at the Royal Marsden Hospital and, right, the area before reconstruction



Trinity Hospice memorial garden at Clapham Common

is one of his finest works. The gardens were in a state of dilapidation through the Seventies and Eighties and had to undergo restoration and re-planting, funded by the Irish Government and the National War Memorial Committee, which represents Northern Ireland as well as the Republic.

Trinity Hospice on London's Clapham Common is a two-acre park-like garden in memory of garden designer Lanning Roper, who was involved with the site when the hospice was refurbished in 1980. The Queen Mother planted a purple beech there in 1981. Work on the buildings prevented any progress with

the garden for some time and Lanning Roper became ill and died in 1983. After his death, a garden was made with donations from his friends, designed by John Medhurst.

There is a pond, some fine mature trees, contemporary sculpture and many plants that Lanning Roper used in his own designs.

Actor David Haig (D.I. Grim in *The Thin Blue Line*) and his wife had a stillborn child and have chosen to remember their baby not only by helping the charity Tommy's Campaign, which supports research into birth defects, but by building a Japanese garden in remembrance.

The philosophical nature of a classical Japanese garden makes the style ideal for a memorial garden. Maintenance, while vital,

can be done at particular times of the year and requires nothing like the activity involved in keeping up an English flower garden. The Haigs have other children who were looking forward to the arrival of the new baby, and the creation of a substantial and palpable memorial is a great consolation to them.

● **Royal Marsden Roof Garden:** Simon Ann Dorin, Chichester House, 12 Rockley Road, London W14 0DA (071-731 3515). Donations to Lucy's Fund, c/o Clifton Nurseries, Little Venice, London W9 3PH.

● **Tommy's Campaign** is one of the charities benefiting from the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show Gala Preview, 1 Kennington Road, London SE1 7TR.

● **Trinity Hospice Garden:** 30 Clapham Common North Side, SW4. Is open on April 25-26, June 6-7, July 25-26 and September 5-6 under the National Gardens Scheme.



- Sow seeds of sweetcorn this month in 3in pots at 17C (60F) for planting out next month. Try the early varieties 'Candle' and 'Sweet Nugget'. Begin to harden off home-raised outdoor tomatoes in a cold frame.
- May is the month for sowing most vegetables outdoors - French and runner beans, beetroot, broccoli, cabbages, cauliflower, carrots, kale, leeks, lettuce, spring onions, parsnips, spinach and turnips. Stagger the sowings so that they crop over a longer period.
- Make sure that wall-trained fruit trees, especially stone fruits, have had plenty of water if the weather heats up. This applies especially to trees under glass. Pinch the blossoms out of newly planted fruit trees to focus their energies on making new wood which will make the structure for future years.
- Plant summer hanging baskets under glass, incorporating water-retaining gel into the compost to make watering easier. Leave enough space in the basket to water generously. Harden them off by hanging them outdoors on warm, still days. Hang out permanently next month, or put them out now but lift them in if frost threatens.
- Transplant ferns just as the crowns flex their backs and show signs of expanding. Put a handful of slow-release fertiliser such as bonemeal in the bottom of the hole, and mulch the crown with old fibrous compost.
- On days which are still, mild, rainy and dull, houseplants may be stood outside to have dust washed off. But bring them in again before the sun shines on the wet leaves and burns marks on to them. Also watch that softer houseplants unused to wind and weather are not bent over and sprained by the weight of water.
- Prune bush peaches, taking out dead wood and crossing branches, and encouraging an open centre.
- Sow pumpkins under glass in individual 3in pots at 65C (22F). Harden off in due course and plant out next month in richly manured land. Make a metre ring of compost around the plant so you can water generously into the cavity. The jade-skinned winter squash 'Crown Prince' is excellent for flavour. Choose varieties with naked, husk-less seeds like 'Triple Treat' and 'Baby Bear' if you want to eat the seeds.
- Ornamental grasses and bamboos should be divided or transplanted now, as growth commences. Large, tough bamboos such as the South American *Chusquea couleou* will need a sharp spade and brute force. Smaller, running varieties like *Pleoblastus auricoma* and *variegata* can be cut to the ground to produce a fresh crop of stripy foliage.
- Sow seeds in nursery rows of biennials (sweet williams, Canterbury bells and wallflowers), to be grown on through the summer and transferred to flowering position in autumn. In woodland gardens, seed of honesty and foxgloves scattered now will flower next year.
- After flowering, reduce tangled growth on *Clematis montana* in positions where it cannot be allowed free rein. (The growth made this summer will flower next spring.) If space is tight, prune every year. If not, do it every few years. *Clematis montana* can be left unpruned indefinitely, but one day there will be an unholy great tangle to deal with.

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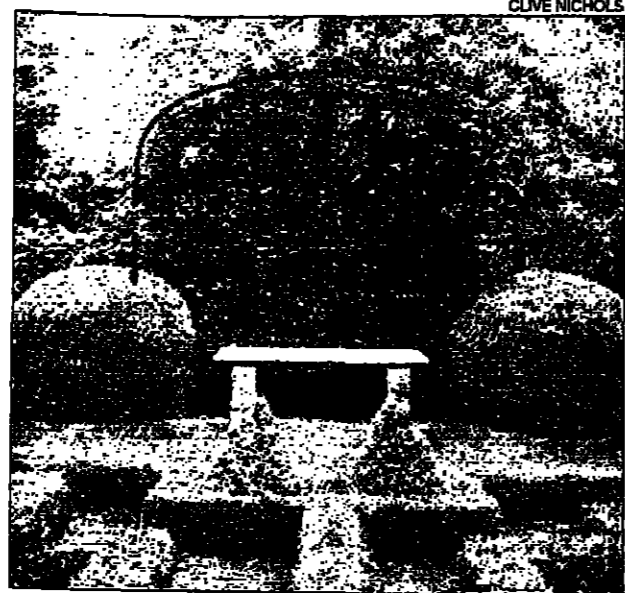
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Summer snapes are a snip away

Topiary works as well in ivy as in box or yew, Stephen Anderton says

You might say it's hard to beat box and yew for topiary and clipping. But not far behind them in the league of versatility comes ivy. It can be clipped perfectly and, given a wood or metal framework, it will make perfectly good free-standing shapes.



Lattice arbour made from clipped ivy at Bourton House

Ivy's foliage is much more glossy than box or yew. Its drawback is that this larger-leaved plant is better pruned with secateurs, so you are not left with chopped leaves after each clipping and through the winter. But for structures of a modest size, ivy makes a refreshing change.

At Bourton House, Bourton-on-the-Hill, in the Cotswolds last year I saw two formal stone benches, each with a bolster of clipped box on either side. Above and behind each seat was a lattice arbour, painstakingly picked out in clipped ivy. Such a framework would have been almost impossible in box, but in ivy it was relatively easy to achieve.

In a garden in Gloucestershire recently I saw a wire arch 7ft tall and 2ft deep covered in ivy. It had grown up and made a dense feature in less than ten years, but it had lurched over sideways



Topiary birds at Chenies Manor, Buckinghamshire

because the frame was not strong enough to bear the weight of the ivy. Even so, ivy is a cheap and attractive material with which to make a shady tunnel in a garden, as long as you spend enough on making the structure strong.

When an ivy is old enough, the trunk becomes part of its attraction, and on topiarised specimens the trunk can be cleaned of foliage to make it more conspicuous. Siskin Plants in Suffolk sells kits containing pot, compost, plant and wire hoops for making topiary ivy balls. It reckons a 9in globe on clean 9in stems

can be achieved in 12-18 months, training the ivy around two intersecting hoops on a stick, and then allowing the sideshoots to fill in the segments of space. But if the trunk is to be a formal feature in itself, why not train it as a spiral from the start, or plait three stems together as they rise, or loop them round a spherical pebble half-way up?

Siskin Plants uses the variety 'Green Feather' for its topiary balls. Nurseryman Chris Wheeler says it is fast, but not too fast growing, has leaves of a tidy size and is generous enough with its sideshoots to fill out the shape efficiently. He also uses 'Ivalace' but finds its stems not quite so flexible. Varieties which throw sideshoots only reluctantly make poor topiary, as do those which produce outside foliage.

At Herterton House in Cambo, Northumberland, Frank and Marjorie Lawley have made a garden which combines supremely well modern hard-working planting with the traditional clipped bones of a cottage garden. Their front garden, facing on to the quiet lane down which Lancelot 'Capability' Brown walked to school, contains many curving yew topiary pieces.

'Capability' would have hated their topiary, for its 17th-century, formalist tendencies. Tough cheese, Lancelot — people enjoy topiary.

FACT FILE

- Topiary ball kits are available from Siskin Plants, Davey Lane, Charsfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 7QG at £12 each or £18 for two inc p&p (01473 737567).
- Brodsworth Hall, near Doncaster, is open April-Nov except Mondays, noon-6pm (01302 722593).
- Other gardens mentioned are open under the National Gardens Scheme and listed in its annual *Yellow Book*.

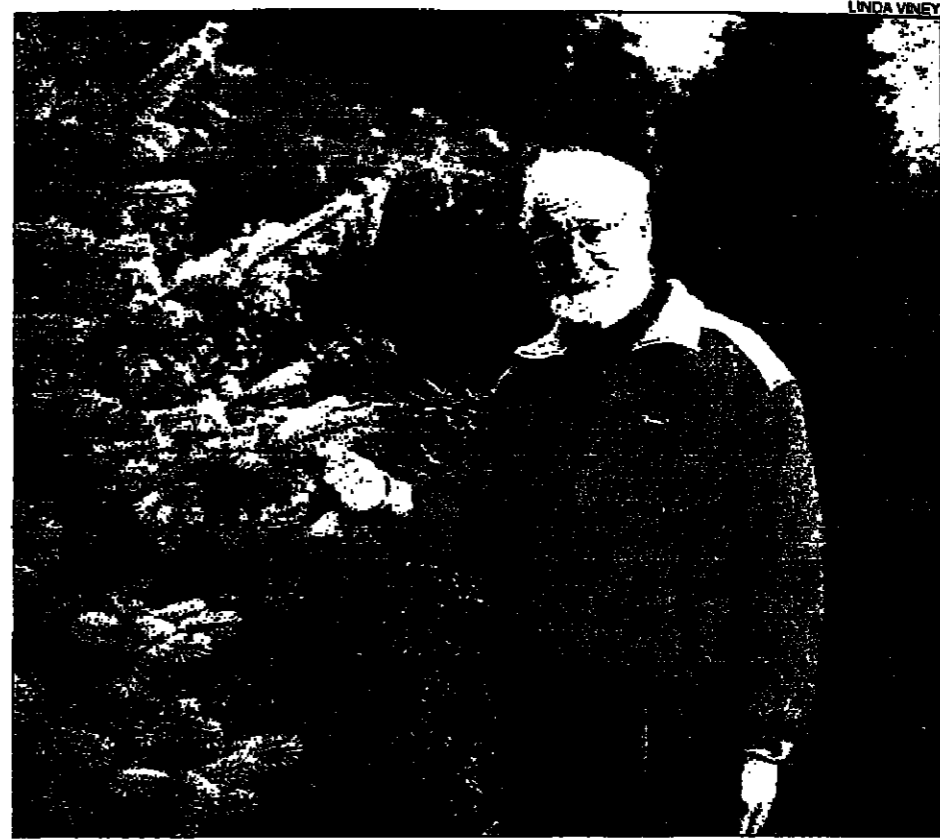


A Gibberd Garden sculpture

Capt Howe Chapel Stile, Great Langdale, Cumbria (01539 437685). Three miles west of Ambleside. £2. The garden, which opens this weekend for the National Gardens Scheme, is open on certain days and there is a recorded message, on the number above, saying which ones. Professor Bob Haszeldine collects plants from all over the world whenever bad weather keeps him from his main hobby — mountaineering from Chile to Japan to Nepal. The plants are brought back to this two-acre, south-facing, sharply sloping site overlooking Langdale Pikes. Camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas, alpines, dwarf conifers and monocarpis are specialities, and the blue Himalayan poppy is one of the plants on sale at most openings.

A couple of streams twist through the garden and Prof Haszeldine is making another around which he will plant a Himalayan glade. He has chosen plants so that there is "something good to see" on every day of the year.

Tintinhull Tintinhull village, Yeovil, Somerset. Five miles NW of Yeovil (01935 822545). Open daily until Sept 30 except Mon and Tues from 12-6pm. It will open this bank holiday Monday, £3.70 or free for members of the National Trust. Tintinhull has launched many magazine covers and been the inspiration for much of this century's garden design. Until recently it was run by the author and designer Penelope Hobhouse. The garden was made famous, originally, by Phyllis Reiss in the 1930s. Paths lead away from the 17th-century house through a series of garden rooms, some of them tiny, and each with its



Professor Bob Haszeldine collects plants from all over the world for Capt Howe

Around the world in just one garden

GARDENS TO VISIT



Waterlilies in the pond at Tintinhull House in Somerset

own carefully managed colour scheme. Clipped domes of box and higher yew hedges form each of the rooms, one of which centres on a circular lily pond. A rectangular lily pond reflects the front of an enticing loggia and, at the end furthest from the house, a kitchen garden of meticulous tidiness is a reminder that potagers are not the only decorative form of garden rooms, some of them tiny, and each with its thanks to clever design aided by the sloping site.

JANE OWEN

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Woz going on 'ere then, chef?

Not content with just cooking the ingredients, this top restaurateur grows his own, writes Jane Owen

Anthony Worrall Thompson seems like a character out of *Blat on the Land* as he strides around his vegetable plot. The telly chef, who owns Woz, the fashionable restaurant in Notting Hill Gate, London, has displeased the authorities by creating a vegetable garden, a rustic-style chicken run and pigsty in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

"The planning people came and said we were out of order because the vegetables were for my domestic use but I was growing them on agricultural land," he says. How one man, however fond of food, a slim wife and two children under five are supposed to consume one acre of tightly planted vegetable garden is not easy to imagine.

Mr Worrall Thompson is planning his revenge. "They are saying I must take down the pigsty and chicken coop, and if they insist I'll just let all the livestock loose and see what happens," he says. His Thames-side home is where he spent many of his formative years exercising his green fingers under the tutelage of his grandmother's gardener, while his mother, the actress Joanna Duncan, was working. Over the past two or three years Mr Worrall Thompson and his gardener, Jim Larobar, have created a series of wood-edged rectangular beds.

The choice of fruit and vegetables is guided by rarity or price. For instance, one dish favoured by Mr Worrall Thompson, involving broad beans cooked in their pods, was impossible to make because nobody could supply beans that were small enough or fresh enough. Raspberries are easy to find in season but can cost £3 a punnet, so last year he grew them in such quantity he kept the restaurant in raspberries for a month. Chives, rocket, asparagus, sea kale, salad burnet, Jerusalem artichokes and pak choi are all expensive. So he grows them, too.

"Pink Fir Apple potatoes go for £1 a pound but I find they crop well. Golden Wonder potatoes are good too. Rocket grows like a weed. I've only recently realised it will go through the winter or I would have planted more," says Mr Worrall Thompson, who claims to be an amateur gardener who can never remember plant names. "Or any names, come to that, which is bad for a restaurateur."



The chef's office and library



A far cry from the pristine quarters of his restaurant kitchen: Anthony Worrall Thompson gets down to the nitty-gritty in his Thames-side home's vegetable garden

ME AND MY GARDEN ANTHONY WORRALL THOMPSON

Chilli, which Mr Worrall Thompson rates as the cult ingredient of the moment, is a spice he grows. "The British used to think chilli was chilli whether it blew your head off or not, and only now have the supermarkets started to grade the stuff. Finally we are learning about food. I've grown some Scotch Bonnet. On the heat scale they are ten out of ten."

There are the more mundane vegetables, too. A sack of winter-green was sitting on the side of the garden waiting to be taken up to the restaurant when I visited.

Organicness is informal. No pesticides or fungicides are used and, instead, Mr Worrall Thompson depends heavily on choosing disease and pest-resistant varieties, and on companion planting. But Mr Worrall Thompson is not bothering to apply for Soil Association approval.

'I'll just let all the livestock loose and see what happens'

His customers sometimes know when they are eating organic, home-grown produce, sometimes not. The next project is to plant about 100 fruit trees around the threatened pigsty.

On the other side of the Worrall Thompsons' gaudy green, pink and yellow house is the pleasure garden which leads from a York stone terrace across a lawn to the river and a boathouse which serves as the chef's library and office. A visit to the Prince of Wales at Highgrove inspired a hornbeam walk, branches interlocking overhead.

with an arbour backed by a semicircle of yew in the centre. Borders around the edge of the garden are planted with shrubs, ferns and hellebores and five acers.

At the centre of the lawn, beside a sunken stone terrace, is an oak in memory of his mother and, to screen the garden from pleasure boats, a rustic trellis draped with honeysuckle and roses.

The trees all have uplighters which help make this a garden for entertaining. It is also one that his wife, Jay, and two-and-a-half-year-old son, Toby-Jack, help with. Eight-month-old Billie-Lara is not yet big enough. In his grandmother's day it was a labour-intensive cottage garden with beds right up to the house. "I'm more interested in the vegetable garden, although I did completely redesign all this to make it less labour intensive."

Vegetables are such a passion

that Mr Worrall Thompson is toying with the idea of a vegetarian restaurant... for meat eaters. "It's like when a vegetarian invites you home they never cater for meat eaters. I think it's time for a vegetarian restaurant which doesn't look as if you have to wear sandals to eat in it."

And he reckons that the next food scare will be on genetic engineering and pesticides — and that should make the prospect of an organic vegetarian restaurant all the more alluring. Which may be why Mr Worrall Thompson wants to extend his vegetable empire by erecting a polytunnel. It will make his pigsty look positively picturesque and should guarantee war with the planners. But at least we will be able to have our organic vegetarian cake and eat it.

• The ABC of AWT. Mr Worrall Thompson's latest book, will be published in October by Hodder Headline.



A scenic view of Shiplake, Anthony Worrall Thompson's home



Early Arran Pilot potatoes are ready for planting

Know your own boundaries

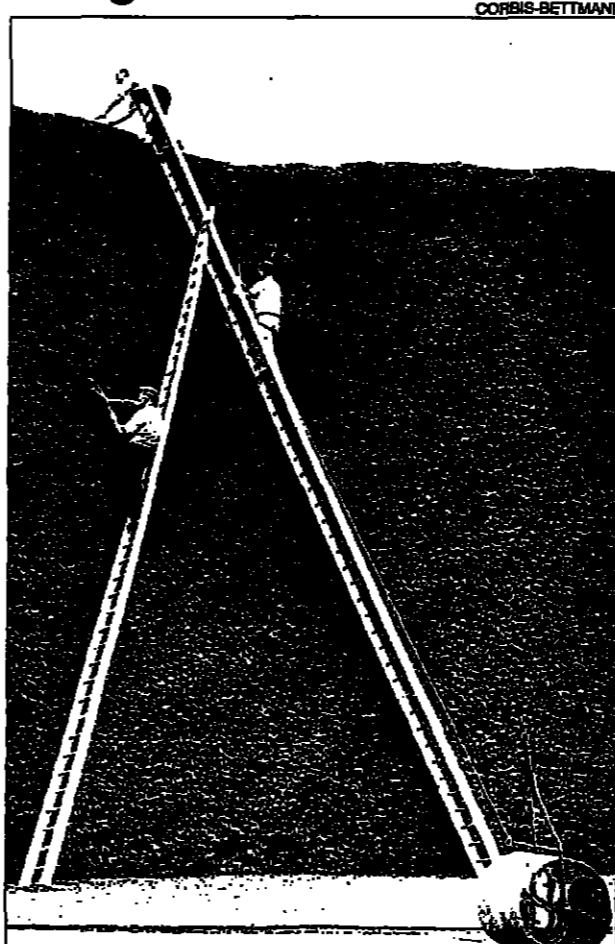
Don't tackle the hedges, says Louisa Reid, until you have a grip on the law

Privacy is probably the main reason for building garden boundaries. But to build or alter a boundary — to protect our privacy or for any other reason — needs up-to-date knowledge of the laws of the land. Some of these are bylaws and some are Acts of Parliament. According to the Permitted Development leaflet provided by Somerset, planning permission is needed if the fence, wall or gate would be next to a road and more than one metre high or more than two metres high elsewhere.

Most gardens have one boundary on to a public road. "Regarding land adjoining a Highway," the leaflet states, "in common law, there was no duty to fence a boundary with a highway."

In fact, from the reign of Edward I to that of George III, it was forbidden to maintain a dyke, tree or bush within 200ft of a highway as a protection against highwaymen.

The Highways Act 1980 now imposes an obligation upon the owner of land adjoining a street (which includes a highway, lane, footpath or passage) to fence anything which is a source of danger to persons using the street.



Tall hedges provide privacy but may annoy neighbours

One more warning. Under the general law of negligence, an occupier may be liable for the escape of something from his land, such as a football or a golf ball.

This is not an absolute liability. It depends, we are

told, on whether the occupier could reasonably have foreseen what happened.

The Animals Act benefits garden owners, so it is as well to know our rights. It advocates that the owners of livestock (such as cattle, horses,

asses, mules, sheep, pigs, goats, poultry and deer not in the wild state) are still liable for any damage to land or property that the animal causes when it strays on to somebody else's land. The fact that the land it strays on to is not fenced is not in itself a defence.

In Somerset, where I live, intruders are foxes and badgers — killing poultry and damaging gardens.

They cause a great deal of annoyance, but no laws or rules of compensation apply.

Boundaries between private owners sometimes cause trouble. The actual ownership of the hedge, wall or fence can be ascertained by referring to the properties' deeds — which includes the maintenance and repair. Some accidental damage may be covered by either side's insurance policy.

Rights and wrongs of neighbours are difficult to evaluate — how to balance the comfort of one with the hurt of the other. Yet, to remain on good terms, when living side by side, is highly desirable.

If a complaint is reasonable and can be easily dealt with, it is better for the sufferer to state his case politely rather than to bear a grudge. An example of this is where a small, well-tended plot borders the outlying part of a large garden, which is neglected.

A change of neighbour

sometimes creates problems. One homeowner decided to landscape his property with special attention to privacy and views. But a newly built house beyond one of his boundaries overlooked his ground, detracting from his otherwise rural vista. He was within his rights in planting a row of leylandii close to the boundary. But this quick-growing evergreen soon became a thick hedge, fulfilling the owner's purpose but keeping sun from the neighbour's house. Fortunately there was

an amicable solution. The owner of the trees agreed to reduce the top growth to a certain level and maintain it there in future.

There are plenty of other stories of successful boundary-sharing. Two London gardeners have their properties divided by a long, fairly high wall. They discuss which creepers each will grow against their side and the positions of planting. These are allowed — in fact, encouraged — to overtop the wall.

So, each can enjoy the others' flowers, berries and greenery as well as their own.

• For information about property owners' rights and responsibilities, contact local councils or the Department of the Environment, Somerset residents can obtain the Permitted Development leaflet from the Country Planning Office on 01458 251151.

'Ownership of walls and fences can be found in property deeds'

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CHANGING TIMES

STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

Q We are about to repair a decorative waterfall which runs down into a fish pond, and have purchased a product called Febproof to make the cement and sand mixture waterproof. Will this harm the fish? — Mr V. J. Dillon, Tisbury Wells, Kent.

A The company Feb, which produces this additive, says that the product has not been formally tested in this regard. But it is confident that the chemical composition makes it far less likely to harm fish than the alkaline nature of the cement. The product reduces water permeability of mortar, although it will not be 100 per cent waterproof.

Q I wish to fertilise my lawn but not poison my dog which eats grass enthusiastically. Obviously I cannot use granular fertiliser, but would a liquid feed be safe? — Mrs J. Granger, Cirencester, Glos.

A So long as you use simple fertilisers with no weedkillers in them, then you are quite safe. Granular fertilisers would be unpalatable to your dog. But if you could keep the dog off the grass until the granules had soaked in, then it would be safe again. As you say, liquid feed might be safer, but I would still "rinse" the grass with a sprinkler. Look at using an in-line diluter to apply the fertiliser through a sprinkler (Phostrogen produces one).

Personally, I would put on a coat and hat and apply granules by hand in the rain; it's the fastest option and does not "burn" the grass.

Q Our windy, seaside garden has a rather ragged 6ft *Melianthus major* which has four or so flowers. How do I ensure it will set seed (the flowers are on long, fragile-looking stalks) and how do I treat the seeds? — Mrs G. E. Fisher, Poole, Dorset.

A *Melianthus* is a wonderful foliage plant, with those long, deeply cut, sea-green leaves. In most parts of the country it is either killed by the winter or dies back to ground level. If stems get through the winter, they usually look a mess, bare below and with those gawky, trifid-type flowers at the top. All the glamour is in the new stems and foliage. As your plant has got through the winter, it will have a strong, established root system. I would forget seed, cut it down to 6in, and have a fabulous new 4-5ft crop of foliage. If you really want seed, leave well alone, maybe rig up a little shelter, and see what happens.

I am not sure if it sets seed in Britain. However, bought seeds are easy enough to germinate in spring, with bottom heat or good warmth. Why not leave just one stem to flower, and cut the rest down to regrow?

• Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. We regret that any enclosures cannot be returned.

كوزا من الأصل

'Like Mrs Tittlemouse, I am an anxious and obsessive housekeeper, perpetually on the alert for sticky fingermarks'

A marathon housework session

Having been indoctrinated since childhood with a rigorous habit of moral self-examination, I am dimly aware that my worst faults are a tendency towards self-pity and, even less forgivable, to anger. I have been struggling with them for several decades now, and neither shows any sign of diminishing. Last Sunday was a particularly awful day. For a start, Alexander wasn't around. Usually, he is rather a good antidote, since he is too funny and clever to allow one to feel sorry for oneself for very long, and pays absolutely no attention to anger — the crosser I get, the more interested he becomes in whatever he is reading. But he had gone off for the day to Legoland with his best friend, Ben, and I was left all alone, trapped in the house by the London Marathon.

This was a jolly bad news. There is something about the London Marathon — all those people got up as Tellyubbies and dinosaurs, or bowling gallantly along in their aerodynamic wheelchairs — that sends me into an irrational rage. The sight of a great swath of them streaming past the house, to ragged cheers from the bystanders and the beat

of helicopter blades overhead, brought on sensations which must, I suppose, be rather like what hunt saboteurs feel at the sight of some pink-coated ass cheerfully downing his stirrup cup.

Sunday is normally rather dull, but it happened that this particular Sunday I had been asked to lunch by three people, and had had to turn them all down on account of not being able to get out of Greenwich. Clearly, I was going to have a horrible day, so I thought I might as well get on with some housework. This is what I always do when I'm in a filthy mood, on the grounds that it can't make me feel any worse, and I will at least have a nice clean house by the time I am feeling better.

Like Mrs Tittlemouse, I am an anxious and obsessive housekeeper, perpetually on the *qui vive* for sticky little fingermarks or creepy-crawly intruders, both of which I try, in vain, to eradicate with chemicals bearing hortatory, mono-

syllabic names — Jif, Flash, Flit. I wandered around the house with my mop and bucket, flinging wood lice out of the window, and then I thought I might do the great summer wardrobe change-over. The wardrobe is in Alexander's room. I got all the clothes out and was sitting among them on the floor, not happy, exactly, but quite usefully absorbed, when the phone rang. It was Charles. "Hi, hi," he said. "Had to come to London to spring-clean the flat. God, it's dull. Thought I might pack it in for a bit. Fancy a trip over to the Dove for a pint and something to eat?" It was the wrong thing to say.

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

"Charles," I said, bursting into loud sobs. "Three separate people have asked me to lunch today. And for once Alexander is out, and I might go, except I can't because the road is blocked by 30,663 stupid people in training shoes. This is the story of my whole life. I never have any fun. I never go out. I just stay here, working and child-minding, and trying to get rid of wood lice and fingermarks, and losing my looks, and it is not fair. Boo hoo hoo."

If Charles was surprised to ring up with an invitation to lunch and find himself talking to Mad Margaret from Riddigore, he didn't let on. "Janey," he

said, very nicely, "look out of the window." I did. No road blocks. No runners with silly St Theresa expressions of ecstatic anguish. Just a lovely, lovely stream of traffic. "Blimey," I said, wiping my nose on the back of my hand. "They're all gone away."

"Well, now," said Charles. "Go and powder your nose, or whatever you women do, and get over here, and I'll buy you a drink. I think you need one. And bring a duster, will you? Good girl."

Charles's flat, when we got back after lunch, was in much the same state as my house. Empty book shelves, and their contents strewn all over the floor. And what was this? A copy of *1001 Household Hints*? And *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang? I have never been quite convinced that Charles knew how to read. And I certainly didn't suspect this gentle, feminine side to his nature... Just then, he caught the direction of my gaze. "Nothing to do with me," he said, hastily.

"Must be something of mother's. Now, look at this. Here's a really useful book. Got it with a job lot of chamberpots from a lunatic asylum." (Charles's great thing is roaming the country in search of lunatic asylums, and then buying up their contents, which he stores in a great barn, next to his wurzels.)

He was holding a treatise on hunting, dated 1802, written by Richard Beckford. "Tells you all about how to get started, you see," said Charles, turning the pages lovingly. "First you build your stable block, then you buy in your hounds, and look — he gives a list of names: Wanton, Sullen, Libertine — that's for the bitches, of course. Well now, that's enough housework. Let's go for a walk, shall we?"

Much later, I arrived home to find Alexander unloading his Legoland loot from Ben's daddy's car. "Come and look at my stuff," he said, bounding upstairs to check his territory, as he always does. My things were still all over the floor. Oh dear, oh dear. "Mummy!" came a furious voice from upstairs. "What is this horrible mess? Come here and clear it up. Immejatly!"

The kind of life to die for

If, like Woody Allen, you want to achieve immortality not through your work, but through not dying, then gerontologists, alas, cannot help. But the chances of living to be more than 100 — once the stuff of science fiction — are ever increasing. This week the world's oldest man, Christian Mortensen, died at the age of 115 in California.

The world's oldest woman, Sarah Clark Krauss, 117, lives in Pennsylvania. Indeed, in America centenarians are the fastest-growing sector of the population and it is reckoned that in Britain by 2030 there will be 30,000 people over 100 — at least four times as many as today.

Buckingham Palace has already assigned an extra part-timer to the over-pressed person who dispatches Her Majesty's "warm congratulations". Between 1977 and 1997 the number of 100th birthday telegrams sent each year doubled and 105th birthday celebrants (who receive a second message) rose from 11 to 190.

The Scottish farmer, David Henderson attributes his 108-year-old health to porridge; vegetarian Angeline Strandal, 104, advises "keeping away from doctors".

A recent study by the Centre for Policy on Ageing found that 100 centenarians attributed their age to a wide range of factors. Some cited clean living with "no drinking, no smoking" while 63 per cent of those interviewed were strongly religious. Yet what clearly

Fun is the key to living past 100, says Madeleine Kingsley

counts more than any contradictory hot tips for a long life is the spirit behind it.

As scientists now see longevity as 25 per cent genetic and 75 per cent environmental and behavioural, the case for a strong will and a positive attitude seems irrefutable. Tom Kirkwood, Professor of Biological Gerontology at Manchester University, says: "Anyone reaching 100 is undoubtedly endowed with a robust constitution and usually free of predisposition towards cancer, Alzheimer's and other diseases."

Dr John Grimley Evans, Professor of Clinical Gerontology at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, says: "It's clear that old people today expect to be active, to take part in leisure, pleasure and education. American research suggests that people who are determined to stay in control of their own destiny do better. Those who think they are in charge of their lives are



Early morning keep-fit classes at Sun City, Arizona. Scientists have proved that exercise is as valuable to the over-fifties as it is to the young

likely to live longer than those who feel pushed around by other people and society."

Dr Kevin Morgan, of Sheffield University's Centre for Ageing, says: "Repeatedly depressed people have a higher mortality than their more positive peers." No wonder, Richard Restak and David Mahoney, authors of *The Longevity Strategy: How to Live to 100 using the Brain-Body connection*, endorse the life-

'Depressed people die sooner than their positive peers'

prolonging power of humour — laughing reduces epinephrine, the stress hormone which improves circulation and speeds the heart rate. Depression, say the authors, lowers

immunity and makes you three times more likely to suffer a heart attack. Dr Grimley Evans warns against being complacent and concluding that we are simply living longer: "The average age of death in 1900 was 47. More people now live out their genetic potential instead of being cut off by the ill-effects of poor housing, lifestyle and nutrition."

Biological research teams like Professor Kirkwood's in Manchester are attempting to defy chronology. Dr Kirkwood is studying the natural anti-oxidising process that prevents the cell and tissue damage which accelerates ageing. Genetic engineers in the United States are breeding fruit flies with increased anti-oxidant enzymes. Their

flies had one-third more life expectancy — suggesting that "extra time" could be genetically engineered into humans. The Optima Research Project at Oxford University has reported that folic acid, taken as a vitamin supplement or in green vegetables, may ward off Alzheimer's disease which affects half a million people in Britain. We now take it as common sense that exercise is as valuable to people over 50 as to the young gym fans. American researchers at Tufts University began a three-weekly weightlifting programme with ten chronically ill nursing

'Laughter reduces stress and improves overall health'

home residents. After two months, walking speed had almost doubled and two invalids threw away their walking sticks. A similar sports medicine programme organised in London found that the newly active old recovered 16 to 20 years' worth of strength.

However, money talks — and volubly — to the elderly, says David Mahoney, for whom it buys the best possible healthcare and the frequent holidays that inspire and refresh. Continuing education, he adds, is the real elixir of youth. Rich relation-

ships with friends and family reduce harmful stress.

And far from wearing older women out, motherhood at 40 enhances your chances of reaching 100 — one US report found that 19 per cent of women who had given birth after 40 made the century, compared to 5.5 per cent of younger mothers. It is thought that older mothers produce oestrogen for longer, so gaining protection against Alzheimer's and heart disease.

What about sex? Wouldn't we all love to believe that rumpled sheets were the answer to a would-be centenarian's prayer? Anecdotal, the hormone rush, the physical activity and the closeness are certain life enhancers.

A Zimmer-framed frail, forgetful future is not inevitable. You can pass a century and still look forward.

HOW TO REACH 100

by Dr Thomas Stutzford

REACHING 100 is more to do with the age of the ancestors staring down from the walls of the breakfast room than the food on the table. The genes dealt to us by our parents and grandparents are the most important factors which will determine our own longevity. Even the health of our parents before our birth matters. Fat, bouncy babies live longer with fewer diseases in later life than those who are born under-weight and skinny.

However, just as a good bridge player can save the game by playing a poor hand well, so can someone with a poor genetic background live longer if they live more wisely.

1 Men who want to live to a ripe old age should marry, preferably a woman appreciably younger than themselves. Late marriage and children later in life keep husbands and fathers young.

Conversely, those women who remain unmarried have a greater chance of living longer. Divorce or a turbulent home life take their toll.



2 Warmth is essential. A country existence is life-prolonging, providing the house is dry and warm. But driving rain, biting winds and a damp, unheated cottage are not recommended. Recent research shows that Americans who migrate to Florida in the winter survive far longer than their contemporaries who stay in their New York apartments, even if they are heated.

3 Warmth is one of the factors left out when discussing the benefits of the Mediterranean life. The diet should be full of fresh fruit and vegetables, cereals, fish, cheese, and some red meat, plenty of olive oil, and two or three glasses of red wine a day.



4 Life must be entertaining. Depressed patients, even if they don't commit suicide, die younger. It should be studied with interests and activities, both physically and mentally stimulating. A brisk walk of only 25 minutes a day suffices, together with an equal time on a testing intellectual exercise. Crosswords, accounts, battling with the local authority and the taxman, and writing keep the brain synapses firing.

5 Eight hours of sleep, no longer, and a good rest, lying flat at midday, help.

FROM SILENT FILMS TO SPICE GIRLS

"I STILL have plenty of my own teeth," says Ella Scotchmer. She will be 104 in August, attends a tai chi class at her local day centre in Fulham, west London, and has her silver curls set weekly without fail. The former secretary who once worked for a senior partner at Price

Waterhouse still types her letters on an old typewriter. Even though Miss Scotchmer is recovering from a fall and cracked ribs, she leaps up every time the phone rings and speaks her mind strongly in a firm voice. Until 18 months ago, when she caught a virus in Majorca, she regularly swam and enjoyed bowling and yoga. The worst illness she has ever suffered was childhood measles.

She has lived at only three addresses — all in Fulham —

never driven a car or had children. In her eighties she was bitten by the travel bug, booking world cruises and seeing the Norwegian fjords. She spent three months zipping around America, alone, by Greyhound bus. "Sometimes I travelled at night but I wasn't frightened."

Asked what has helped her to live so long, Miss Scotchmer used to cite her diet — no white sugar and plenty of fruit and vegetables. "But now I'd say, love, faith and prayer, because if you get cross, your body deteriorates and you don't feel well."

She has seen out the silent films and seen in the Spice Girls and says: "It's wonderful to have lived so long." She says she would not mind another 20 years. "I've been very blessed."



Ella Scotchmer at 104 and, left, at 20

GOOD LUCK AND PLAIN LIVING

WHEN he is not studying the race form or nipping out to the bookies, Royce McKenzie, 101 in August, will likely be repainting the back room of his Doncaster terrace house. The ex-miner and railway worker reviews his remarkable century with gusts of laughter. "It all seems to have gone so quickly," he says, and I did want to be Prime Minister! I put my long life down to luck, plain living, exercise morning and night and never worrying."

Mr McKenzie still lives in the house his wife chose for them in 1947, and he is still content without an indoor lavatory, bathroom or fridge. Sent over the top in 1917, he was the only man from the trench who was not killed or wounded. "No wonder they call you Lucky Mac," said his adjutant. For that day's action, Royce was awarded the



Military Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

He is careful of his diet and has long given up smoking 20 a day. He has scarcely dented the generous supply of Scotch that guests brought to his 100th birthday. A home help cooks his breakfast — always bran flakes followed by bacon and tomatoes.

He has never seen a computer or driven a car and says he will carry on "just taking life as it comes".



Royce McKenzie, 101 this year, with a picture of himself (left), during the First World War

Left: at 16 (standing). "My life has gone so quickly"

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MAY 8-10

Rock climbing. At the Castle Head Field Centre, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria (015395 34300). Price £120 residential, £96 non-residential, including equipment and instruction.

Taste of Asia cookery weekends in Leicester. Leicester Promotions (01162 547400). Price £175.

Assertiveness for women: Viol consort playing. The city of Rome. Alston Hall Residential College, Longridge, Preston (01772 784661). From £75.

Creative Writing. At The Carberry, Musselburgh, near Edinburgh (0131-665 3488). Price £65.

Glass from the Renaissance to the present day. Literary prizewinners. At Maryland College, Milton Keynes, Woburn, Bucks (01525 292901). From £76.

Spring gardens: Photography. Embroidery. Three courses at Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon (01803 866688). Prices from £130 residential and £130 non-residential.

Bird songs and calls. Walking with a sketchbook. Watercolours for beginners. Microscopy for beekeepers. All at the Flatford Mill Field Centre, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). £105 residential, £85 non-residential.

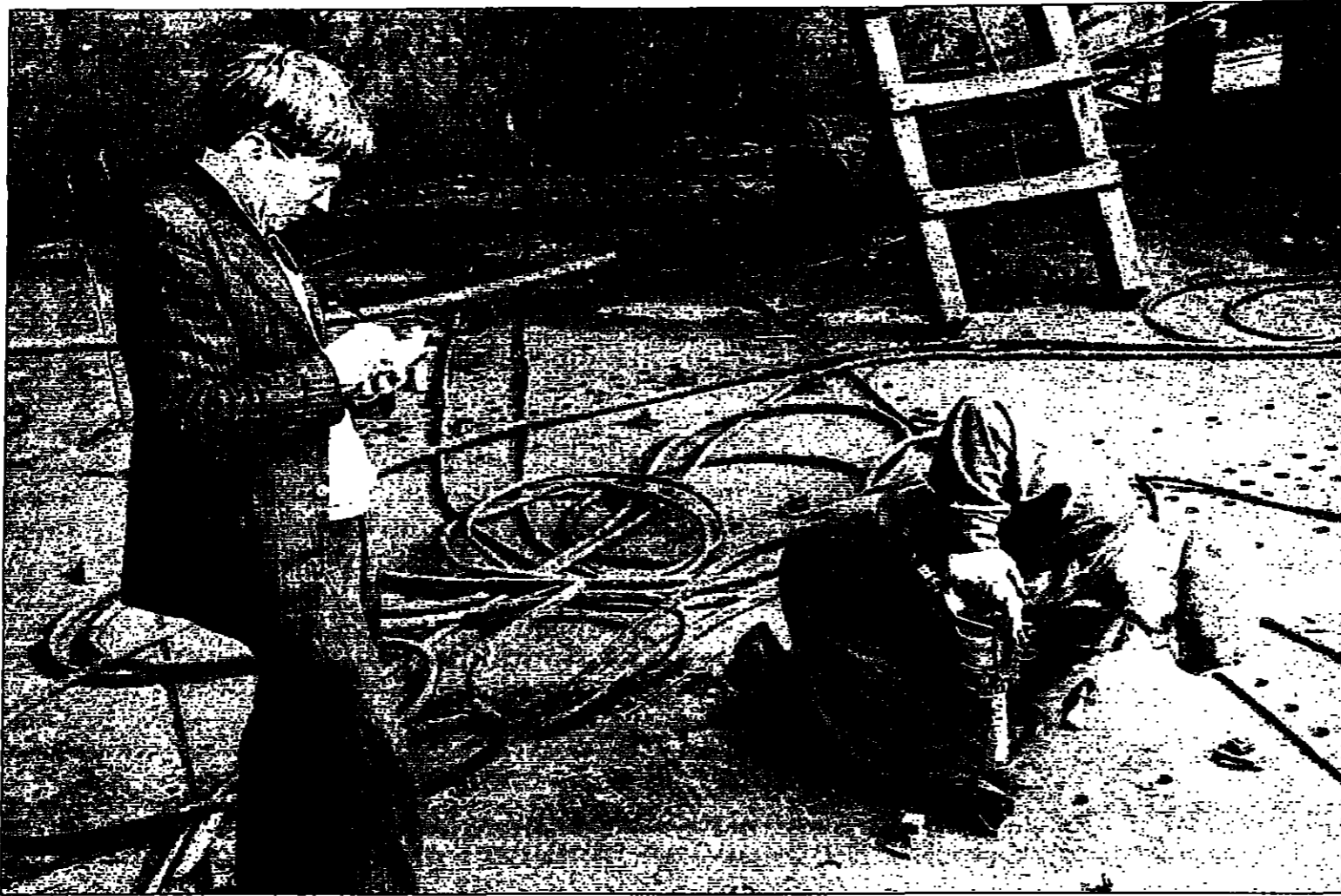
Spring birds. At the University of Cambridge Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120, inclusive.

A festival of Verdi: The tao of clowning. Still-life painting. Cézaanne. Landscape and garden history: An introduction to home interior design. Large-format photography. Some of the courses available at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890296). Price £159 residential and £69 non-residential.

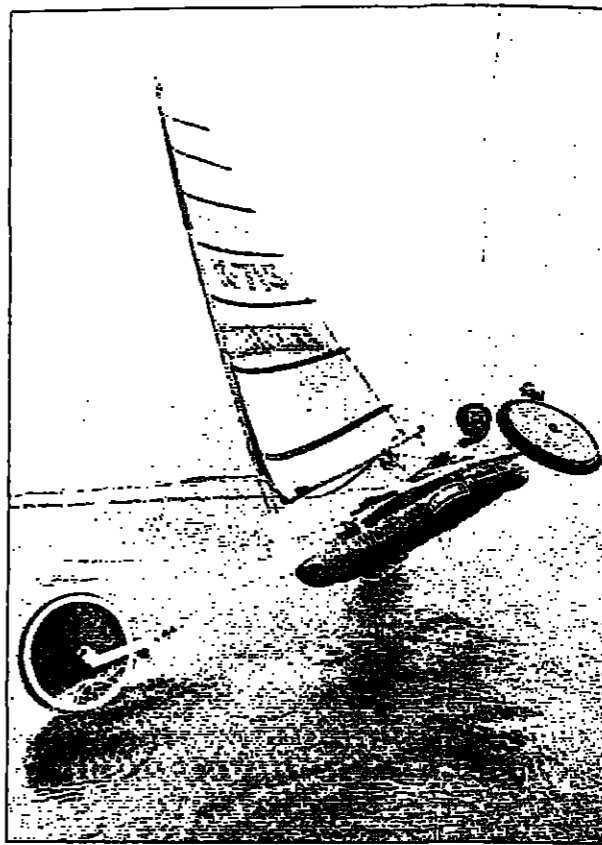
An introduction to croquet. Relax with raffia: Flowers in watercolour. Bridge for improvers. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Pulborough, Sussex (01798 865306). Prices from £114 residential and £90 non-residential.

Listening to jazz. Bridge for beginners: An introduction to handwriting analysis. Batik for beginners: Techniques of water-colour painting. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, Sussex (01243 670392). Prices from £149 residential and £103 non-residential.

Cavaliers and Roundheads. A weekend on the English Civil War at the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price £70, inclusive.



HULTON GETTY



Experience the thrill of land-yachting at high speed with an intensive course with Anglian Activity Breaks on May 15-17

Stanley Spencer sketches a Clydeside shipyard worker. Enjoy walking with a sketchbook or study watercolours for beginners at the Flatford Mill Field Centre, East Bergholt, Essex, next weekend

Winston Churchill — a study in leadership. At the Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01992 813027). Price £85, inclusive.

A pottery weekend in Leominster. With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price £144. Also an Air-experience weekend, flying in helicopter, balloon, Cessna, micro-light and glider, £325, inclusive.

A choral weekend. Summer music at Henley-on-Thames (0171-272 5664). Price £95, inclusive.

A singers workshop: Ancient Egyptian painting. At the Wensum Lodge, King St, Norwich (01603 666021). Price per course £84.

Rock-climbing, mountaineering and canoeing, walking and scrambling in the Peak District. Peak Odysseys of Ecdeshall. MLTB and BMC instructors. Vegetarians catered for (01785 850314). Prices from £120 for two days.

MAY 15-17

Land-yachting. Try the exciting and challenging sport on a one-day course in Cambridgeshire with Anglian Activity Breaks (01603 700770). Price £65.

Boat handling courses on the Norfolk Broads. With Norfolk Broads Direct (01603 782207). Price from £70.

Bread-making. English period breads and cakes for enthusiastic amateurs and professional cooks at the Village Bakery, Melmerby, Penrith, Cumbria (01768 881515). Two-day courses £250, inclusive.

Wildlife and natural history. In Montgomeryshire, Wales with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price £150.

A foundation course for strings. Further musical theory. At the Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin, Herts (01462 459446). From £87 to £115, inclusive.

Photography: Family birdwatching. Improve your watercolours. At the Field Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 289283). Prices from £105 residential and £85 non-residential.

George Gershwin centenary course: Flower painting. At Higham Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria (017687 76276). Price per course £112, residential.

Patchwork and quilting: Lichens: Drawing for watercolours. At Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Wellingborough, Northants (01933 312104). Price per course £92.

Divided Visions — Britain and Ireland, 1798-1922; Flowers and birds of spring. At the Maryland College, Woburn, Bedfordshire (01525 292901). £99 per course.

Completing your tax return: Writing romantic fiction: Advanced French conversation: Exploring acrylics: Honiton lace. At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890296). From £159 residential and £69 non-residential.

Clarinet and flute weekend: Fabric painting for fun: desktop publishing. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Pulborough, Sussex (01798 865306). From £90.

French cuisine: Getting the best out of your relationships: Learn to swim: Singing for pleasure. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, Sussex (01243 670392). From £103.

Essex (01206 298283). From £82.

Windsurfing, dinghy sailing and canoeing. A multi-activity weekend at Nutfield Priory, Redhill, Surrey (01737 822066). From £59 per night.

Birdwatching and landscape photography in the Yorkshire Dales. At the Malham Tarn Field Centre, Settle, North Yorkshire (01729 830331). Prices from £110 residential, £85 non-residential.

Family and children's nature courses. At the Scottish Field Studies Association, Kindroogran Field Centre, Pitlochry (01250 881286). Prices from £50 for children to £91 for adults, inclusive.

A writers workshop: Goldsmithing: Creative embroidery. At the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny (01495 333777). £88 per course.

An invitation to croquet: Wine

tasting: Alexander technique. At the Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northants (01933 312104). From £92.

Shakespearean comedy: Iris Murdoch: A Russian weekend. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price per course £117.

Villages of East London: Art and propaganda — the patronage of the Dukes of Burgundy 1364-1477. At the Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01992 813027). From £85 per course, residential.

Kipling and Conrad. Their history and heritage at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, Sussex (01243 670392). From £154.

Spring bridge: Bags of quilting. At Higham Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria. Four days for £162.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

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Robin Gibson, NPG curator, and Ted the giant Yorkshire terrier

Secrets of art's pet subjects

Portraits offer a glimpse of the closeness between humans and pets, says Alasdair Riley

Robin Gibson, chief curator at the National Portrait Gallery, could categorise some of his favourite paintings and photographs into flocks, chattering and wedges. All collective nouns for animals — domestic pets in his case — over which he has been casting an affectionate but expert eye for some time.

He calls these portrayals of domestic animals "faces in the corner". They appear, tucked away in the background and occasionally playing a more prominent role in the foreground, in some of the NPG's 1,500 paintings and photographs on display.

"Look at people and their pets today," he says. "Pets tell something about their owners, whether they are bought to make a fashion statement, as child substitutes or as an expression of unconditional love between two sentient beings. Pets have always had a role which can be traced through time in paintings and photographs."

Nodding approval is Gibson's soulmate, Ted, "a sort of giant Yorkshire terrier", adopted from an animal shelter four years ago. Ted, a regular commuter from his master's home in Essex to the gallery's offices near Trafalgar Square, central London, was a source of inspiration and encouragement as his owner researched and wrote *A Face in the Corner*, an examination of pets in portraits through the ages and a celebration of the special bond between sitters and their faithful companions.

"I would never let myself be painted," says Gibson. "But if my arm were twisted, Ted would have to be in the picture. He's part of my



Max Wall with Ondie painted by Maggi Hambling. The vaudeville actor had just sung a Noël Coward song, *Poor Little Rich Girl*, to the artist's cat

life, much more than a pair of jaws at the end of a chain."

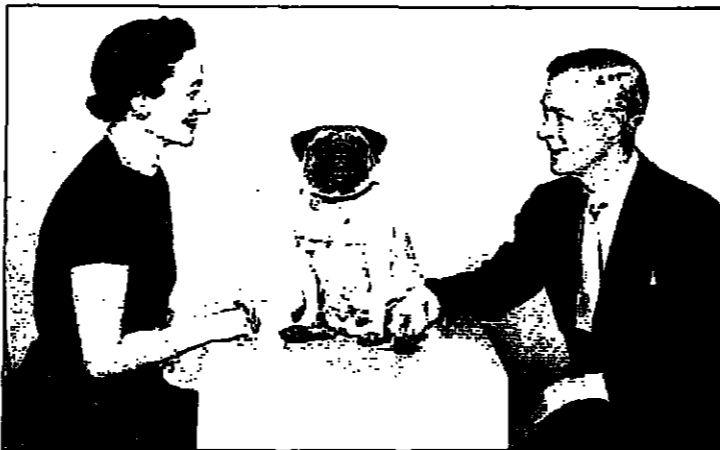
Gibson's book leaves scholarly detective work with warm-hearted speculation. "Eliza H. Trotter's painting of Lady Caroline Lamb, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1811, has a miniature bull terrier sitting on her lap. It's wearing not only its own collar, but also a gem bracelet linked with a clasp. Reading through the various biographies of Caroline, wife of the future Prime Minister Lord Melbourne, I discovered that she had begun her first extra-marital affair, with Sir Godfrey Webster, the year before."

Webster gave her two presents — a dog and a bracelet — which, says Gibson, "are presumably those in the picture. She was parading her affair in public."

There's a similar coded message in the photograph of the composer Benjamin Britten. With him is a little dachshund called Clydie, pre-



Anna Pavlova holding mute swan Jack; after he was tamed, Pavlova could "twine his neck around hers, and he would take it all without the slightest protest"



Left: the Duke and Duchess of Windsor with Dizzy, the first of nine pugs. The couple collected "puggiana"

Right: John Brown, Queen Victoria's favourite servant, with some of the royal dogs — including Waldmann the dachshund, which kept the others in order

sumably originally Peter Pears's dog since it was named after his American singing teacher Clydie Mundy. It's a public portrait, but says something about the private life shared by Britten and Pears."

Dogs, companions of man since pre-civilisation, feature prominently — sometimes as an indication of lifestyle and status, or as a symbol of fidelity or the emotional role they played in sitters' lives.

Edward VII is pictured, in a sepia glossy print, with his terrier Caesar, his faithful companion which kept him company when his years of sexual coveting were a distant memory. An already emotional nation was moved to tears at the King's funeral when the disreputable-looking dog followed the coffin-bearing gun-carriage.

There is humour, too, not least in William Hogarth's *Self-portrait* painting the *Comic Muse*. Visible only in X-ray, no doubt painted over after the artist decided he might have overstepped the mark, is a pug. It is seen peering on Hogarth's behalf on a pile of old master paintings. "A succinct comment on those collectors who preferred second-rate foreign imports to contemporary works by British artists," says Gibson.

Other pets in portraits are more esoteric, among them Jack the swan kept by the prima ballerina Anna Pavlova whose most famous role was, of course, *The Dying Swan*. A 1927 photograph by Lafayette shows the Russian dancer entwined with Jack at Ivy House, her home in north London.

Cats appeared rarely in portraits until the 18th century when they emerged as part of the domestic scene. Cuddly and playful kittens became suitable accessories for portraits of little girls.

Cats also featured in many por-

traits and drawings of the late vaudeville comedian and actor Max Wall by Maggi Hambling — even though Ondie, Parole and Mr Smith were her felines, not his.

They met in the early 1980s while she was Artist in Residence at the National Portrait Gallery and he was starring in his one-man show at the Garrick Theatre, across the Charing Cross Road. It was not long before he was a regular visitor to her Battersea studio.

Max Wall and Ondie appear together in one of Hambling's paintings at the NPG. They are united in reflection after the vaudeville star sang the cat a few verses of Noël Coward's *Poor Little Rich Girl*. "It was that moment which inspired the painting," says Hambling. "I drew Max's head and not long after went into the bedroom where I painted Ondie from life

while she was asleep, then put them together on the same canvas."

A small disappointment for Gibson while he was researching his book was that he could not find more portraits that included pets. "Ironically, there are fewer pictures with animals in the National Portrait Gallery than there are in the average gallery, the Tate for example. It's partly because ours are 'official' portraits which don't lend themselves to the informality which animals can provide," he says.

Still, every dog must have its day and two of them met at the National Portrait Gallery for the launch party for *The Face in the Corner*. Maggi Hambling's Percy, who snores loudly during her weekly life classes, and Robin Gibson's Ted. They don't know much about art, but they know what they like.

● *The Face in the Corner*, by Robin Gibson, is published by The National Portrait Gallery at £7.50.

A VET WRITES

Q My daughter's nine-year-old retriever has developed arthritis in her hips. The vet has prescribed a high dose of anti-inflammatory tablets and suggested hip replacement or removal of the head of the femur. The tablets are expensive and the cost of an operation is more than my daughter could afford. Could a change of diet help?

A Arthritis is an inflammation of the articular cartilages — the fine covering of bones forming a joint. The retriever's problem is likely to be linked to hip dysplasia. The ball-and-socket joint forming the hip is not a perfect fit and the joint surfaces have eroded. Hence the arthritis. This is a mechanical problem, needing a mechanical solution: surgery. Dietary changes are not likely to benefit your daughter's dog. The vet might be able to suggest sources of financial help. In appropriate cases animal welfare societies will cover part of veterinary fees — and many vets cooperate by charging less than the true cost. Financial help may be awarded after a limited means test.

Q Our Welsh terrier puppy, Megan, is nearly 14 weeks old. We have had her six weeks but she will start teething soon. How can we help her through this difficult time?

A It is unlikely she will need help. Most puppies take teething in their stride and trouble is extremely rare. She will start to lose baby teeth any day now and at six months all her permanent teeth will have erupted. Make sure she has things to gnaw: large dog biscuits, hide chews or a big bone with scraps of meat. Chewing helps to shed baby teeth and hardens up the gums.

Q We have a big garden and have sown a quarter-acre to pasture grass, intending to keep a lamb or two for the freezer. But I cannot bear the thought of killing them. I have been offered a one-week-old goat to bottle-rear. When he is fully grown, would he make a suitable four-legged lawnmower?

A One goat is a No-No. Two kids are a possibility (goats are gregarious, a solitary one has a miserable life); preferably two males, castrated (otherwise they smell and are aggressive). Horned breeds should be dehorned at an early age. You will need good fencing — five feet high — as goats jump.

They will need shelter — an open-fronted shed in the driest corner of the paddock is enough, and a water trough. Goats browse rather than graze and they enjoy prunings from fruit trees or other non-poisonous garden plants or vegetables. In the winter, give them some hay and a little rolled barley or sheep nuts. Goats are long-lived — so you will have them for ten years or more.

JAMES ALLCOCK

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Today *The Times* invites readers to visit Pets Pets Pets, a series of weekend shows in May and June, to be filmed live by Channel 4's *Pet Rescue*. Times readers can purchase a family ticket for five people for only £12.50 when they book in advance by calling the hotline below. All readers quoting *The Times* will be entered into a free prize draw to win five years' supply of pet food from Burgess Supafeeds.

The Pets Pets Pets Show, in association with Sainsbury's Pet Club, will feature more than 30 live demonstrations daily. In the 500-seater indoor theatre you can enjoy: cats behaving badly, dog make-overs, rescued reptiles, advice for partons and sniffer dogs. The outdoor animal arena has terrier racing, hawk and eagle flying, sheep dog demonstrations and a parade of pedigree dogs.

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CHANGING TIMES

Baywatch beauties of the four-legged variety

Not all lifesavers are tall, blonde and tanned, as Jack Crossley discovers

Chris Newland and his crowd think one of the best things to get up to at the weekend is to leap into water and pretend to drown. It helps if, like them, you take along a pack of huge Newfoundland water dogs whose weekend is not complete until a few people have been pulled out of the water.

Mr Newland is chairman of the working section of the Newfoundland Club and demonstrates the remarkable life-saving abilities of his favourite breed at the Milton Keynes water sports centre.

Because of their strength and love of water, Newfoundlands have traditionally been employed around ports and lakes: towing boats to shore, hauling nets for fishermen and saving swimmers in peril. They have a double layer of fur to keep them warm and they also have webbed toes, which help them to swim up to three miles.

Enthusiasts would like to see them assist lifeguards. In Italy, Belgium and France, Newfoundlands help in coastal rescues. The dogs are taken out to sea by helicopter and fitted with a buoyancy aid. Once in the water they pull the distressed person to safety using a rope.



Newfoundlands are already used as lifeguards in Italy, Belgium and France

The dogs can also operate without safety equipment: hundreds of distressed people have been rescued by dogs that tug them to safety by locking on to a cuff, a collar or a wrist.

"On some training sessions I will be saved by the hand a dozen times or more," says Mr Newland. "The dog's mouth has never caused me injury."

Mr Newland owns three Newfoundlands — his largest, 12-year-old Trampers, weighs almost 11 stone (about average for a Newfoundland). The trio can be found demonstrating their lifesaving skills at the Milton Keynes water sports centre every weekend.

● The club has training groups across the country; for more information call Carol Daley on 01942 321490.

ADOPT ME



TARA is a two-year-old brown spayed female tabby cat who was brought into the Cats Protection League after her owner developed an allergic reaction. She is an affectionate cat but can be jealous of other pets if they receive more attention. Ideally Tara would suit a home with an older person, with no other pets, where she would receive undivided attention.

If you are interested in adopting Tara, please contact the Durham City and District branch of The Cats Protection League (0191-386 0902) before 6pm.

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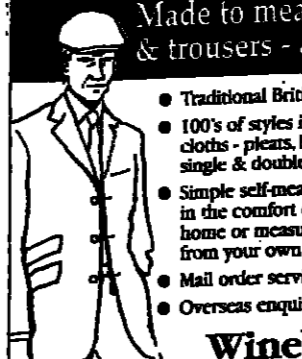
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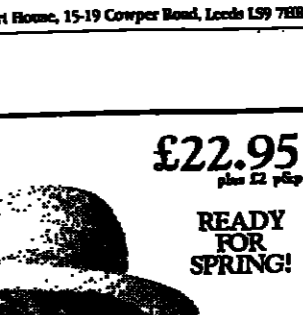
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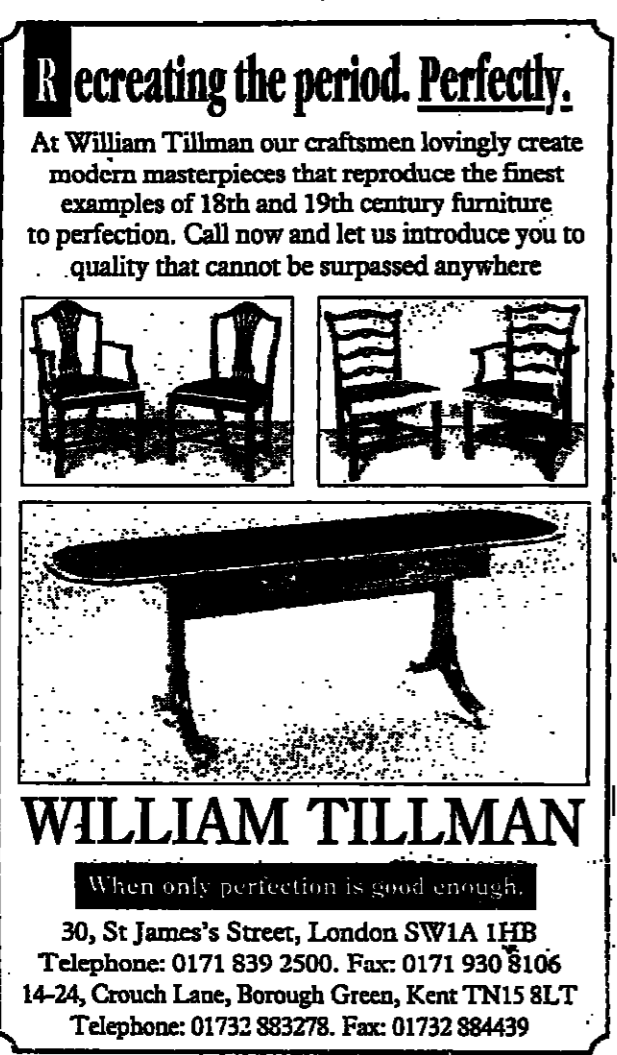


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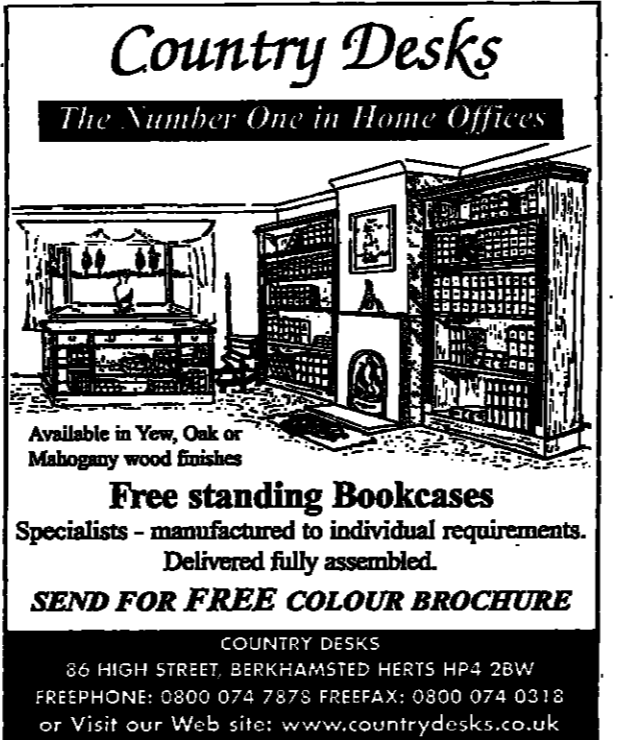
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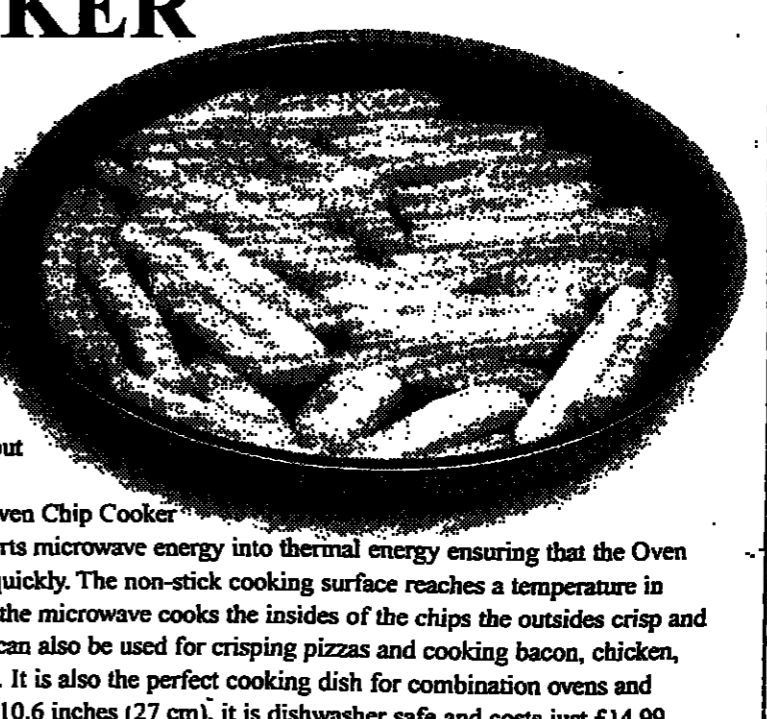
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A man for the millennium

Film-makers are reminding people what 2000 means, says Kevin Dowling



Christ with Judas at the Last Supper in Jesus Story

telling the Gospel story in a quite different and controversial way, he says. "Not as a story for kids and old women — but as a difficult and challenging truth for the new millennium."

A more conventional crib-to-graduation biopic of Christ, *Son of Man*, is already being made by the producer-director John Briereley, whose screenplay for *Gandhi* won worldwide acclaim. Conventional realism does not extend to locations, however. Mr Briereley's Jesus will walk the sands of Morocco. Like John Daly's, he will never see the Holy Land, because film industry insurers, nervous of arousing sectarian passions in the Middle East, have defined Israel as a no-go zone for movie-makers. Even Egypt is thought to be too risky.

Despite the sensitivity of religious scripts, producers seem to be confident that Jesus sells as well as saves. Clive Manning, a media advisor to the Bible Society and a script consultant on *The Trial*, explains his view. "People don't go to church the way they used to. For many, the Bible has become a closed book. But this post-Christian generation is highly visually literate, and it has discovered — rather to its surprise — that it can't do without the Man of Nazareth.

"The Gospels present him as a universal character — a brilliant, multi-faceted man who made the authorities look stupid. Hollywood will market him as a man for our times — and show us that his times were remarkably like our own, so far as the great questions of politics, power, personal relationships and human destiny were concerned," Mr Manning says. "We've tried to turn our backs on him, but we cannot walk away from our own history, and Christ is at the heart of that."



A scene from Jesus Story, a full-length animation due to be released early next year

We can't walk away from the profit motive either, says Philip Poole, chief executive of the Bible Society. "Hollywood isn't pouring millions into religious movies because it expects to lose any money by it. The market is moving to satisfy a hunger for the holy that will always be there."

The trend was spotted early on by Steven Spielberg, whose DreamWorks production *Prince of Egypt* — Hollywood is already calling it *The Zion King* — is a cartoon film for all the family. Due for release next year, it will recast the story of Moses and the Exodus as a family and political feud between two brothers, "one born a king, the other a slave".

British film-makers are hot on Spielberg's heels with *Jesus Story*, which will also be released next year. The 16-million Channel 4 Wales-BBC-Russian co-production will be like Spielberg's, a full-length animation — but any resemblance ends there.

"Now that the weight of Marxist-Leninism has lifted, a great religious revival is taking place in Russia," says executive producer Chris Grace of Channel 4 Wales. "The animators at Christmas Films in Moscow, who are making *Jesus Story* with us, had their studio blessed before they started work. They're working with two-dimensional cartoons and three-dimensional models and the results are quite remarkable. The Russians bring an iconic style to the characters which is quite different from anything the Americans can do." While Mr Grace is keen to stress the

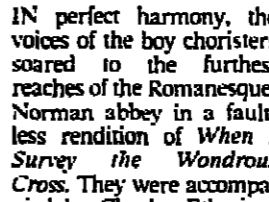
ecumenical nature of his venture — "This will bind Orthodox and Latin Christianity closer together," he says — several end-of-the-millennium features are flaunting their provocative intentions.

One such is David Rolfe's recent proposal for a film in which Christ is to be cloned from DNA retrieved from the Turin Shroud. Mr Rolfe, who made a noted documentary — *The Silent Witness* — about the Shroud, conceded that while the Church would not sanction cloning from the Shroud, "it can't rule out the possibility that someone else might try".

One person who certainly won't try is the Rev Tony Highton, rector of Hawkwell in Essex and a member of General Synod. He says: "There is an appalling ignorance of what happened on Good Friday so I'm thoroughly in favour of accurate portrayals of Jesus in films and on TV. But whatever you think about the blasphemy laws, we should not allow the things that people hold sacred to be mocked in the name of entertainment.

An evensong to remember

Ruth Gledhill visits England's second largest parish church



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VICAR: The Rev Michael Taviner

ARCHITECTURE: Largely Norman.

MUSIC: Psalms from the Abbey School choir

LITURGY: Evensong from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Theoclitian.

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Tea with the Vicar

IN perfect harmony, the voices of the boy choristers soared to the furthest reaches of the Romanesque-Norman abbey in a faultless rendition of *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. They were accompanied by Charles Ethington on an extraordinary 17th-century organ once played by Milton.

Every day during the week, the boys sing chorale evensong to a standard rare outside the greatest cathedrals in the land. The choir is a tribute to its director, Andrew Sackett. Yet this was no diocesan cathedral, nor even a Royal Peculiar. This was a parish church, the second largest in the country, and with its own choir school.

The vicar sat in the choir with us and enjoyed choral evensong as a layman. The service was taken by Canon Bill Paterson, 82, who was Dean of Ely for a spell in the Eighties but who is now retired and helps out at Tewkesbury Abbey. There was even a canon in the congregation, Canon Neil Heavisdens, paying a visit from Gloucester cathedral.

The abbey, once a Benedictine monastery, was founded in 715 although the present building was not begun until 1087. The church, now an oasis of ecclesiastical peace with 300 Sunday communicants and 200,000 pilgrims a year, was the scene of a terrible battle in 1471, when the Lancastrians suffered a defeat from which they never really recovered. Edward of Lancaster, Prince of Wales, who died in the battle, is buried in the choir.

Today, parishioners think not of fighting but of unity in the face of contemporary troubles. The language of modern management techniques seems unknown here. Yet the parishioners recently managed to raise £1.75 million to reroof the east end, restore the organ and create a visitor centre and refectory for pilgrims.

After two lessons, the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc dimittis*, we said the Creed and then knelt in prayer. At Tewkesbury, prayer requests appear each day on the intercession board in the Lady Chapel and these are read out at evensong. We prayed with a mother "that her daughter may find love and happiness." We prayed with another mother that her daughter in Australia "may be given the child for which she so longs".

Finally we said a prayer of St Benedict, under whose rule monks prayed the eight hours of the day and worked, lived and worshipped for more than 400 years. "O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive thee, intelligence to understand thee, diligence to seek thee, patience to wait for thee, eyes to behold thee, a heart to meditate upon thee, and a life to proclaim thee, through the power of Jesus Christ our Lord," we said, before departing into the darkening night.

● *Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucestershire 01634 850959*

RUTH GLEDHILL

aged to raise £1.75 million to reroof the east end, restore the organ and create a visitor centre and refectory for pilgrims.



The boy choristers of Tewkesbury Abbey

Raised to pray in Scotland, I hesitate most Sundays, as I lead people in Hackney in the Lord's Prayer. Every week without fail it is the D-word that rises from my subconscious and has to be swatted away in time for "respasses". You could give me another 40 years, but I doubt whether I will ever be an intuitive trespasser. The whole rhythm of the time is different: the definite monosyllable of "debts" which pulls the worshipper up short, slides away into res-pa-s-es. Worse, it conjures God before me as an angry landowner in a Barbour jacket, keeping the plebs off some holy estate. Debt language, on the other hand, still strikes me as material and simple, carrying the sense of the prayer vividly into contemporary life.

'Forgive us our debts' — prayer for the world's poor

I found a campaign worthy of the millennium. The link to the Lord's Prayer comes because our motivation for backing such a campaign must be the experience of grace, which lies at the heart of the gospel. Those forgiven much love much. Those whose lives are touched by grace live graciously. Britain was a taker from the rest of the world on a huge scale for hundreds of years: a taker of land, of minerals and — to our deepest shame — a taker of slaves. Today, we are still takers of interest, through international loans. An ethical foreign policy must involve us learning

Credo

DOUG GAY

One primary metaphor offered by the Judeo-Christian tradition is that of Jubilee. The Jewish law envisaged a system which balanced freedom and justice, allowing the market to operate and surplus to accumulate, but insisting on action to prevent the economic failure of one generation consigning the next to debt slavery. This move to correct the market, to forgive debts and to equalise opportunities for a new generation, was called Jubilee. A time to remember that man was not made for the market, the market was made for man.

Jubilee economics call us to take

action on global debt. If we seize the opportunity of the millennium, we can enable a shared celebration between people in countries of the north and south. It could even inspire us to build a Jubilee into our own fiscal policy, with a hypothesized 1p tax every seventh year, devoted to our aid and development budget.

Could our Treasury ever embrace the economics of Jubilee? I have few illusions, but I believe that come May 16, when Jubilee 2000 supporters ring the G8 summit in Birmingham, at least one thing will be on the mind of the son of the Manse, who is Chancellor of our Exchequer. At its best, liturgy forms us, it creates associations deep within us, which cannot be undone. Whenever Gordon or I hear the word debt, there will be an echo of the Scots Presbyterian rendering of these haunting words of Jesus — "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors".

Doug Gay is Minister of Clapton Park United Reformed Church in Hackney, East London.

Church services for tomorrow

- Fourth Sunday of Easter**
- BELFAST CATHEDRAL:** 10 HC; 11 S Euch; 1 sat. (Penitential): 3.30 E. A: Blessed be the God and father (Wesley).
- BRECON CATHEDRAL:** 8, 11 Euch. The Brecon Mass (Moore), Canon B M Jones: 3.30 E. St John's service: 10.30 HC. 9.30 M; 11 S Euch. Missa Pape Marcellini (Palestina); 3.15 E. Responses (Picolet): 8.30 Compline.
- CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 9.30 M; 11 S Euch. Missa Pape Marcellini (Palestina); 3.15 E. Responses (Picolet): 8.30 Compline.
- CARLISLE CATHEDRAL:** 7.45 M; 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch. O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 3 E. Wood in E flat.
- CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL:** 7.30 MP: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch. Rev J Moody: 11.15 S Euch. Mass for four voices (Byrd); 6 Ch E. Walford Davies in G. Archdeacon of Hartow.
- CHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 7.45 L; 8 HC: 10 Euch. Stanford in C & F: 11.30 M. Short service (Gibbons), Canon M Rees: 3.30 E. Jackson in G: 6.30 ES.
- CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10 M. Stanford in C: 11 S Euch. Missa sancti Nicolai (Haydn); 3.30 E. Bainton in D.
- CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL:** Dublin: 11 S Euch; 3.30 Ch E. Gray in F minor.
- CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL:** London: 8 HC: 10 M. Short service (Byrd): 11.15 S Euch. Mass for four voices (Byrd): 6 E. Chichester service (Walton).
- COVENTRY CATHEDRAL:** 7.40 MP: 8 HC: 10.30 Euch. Canon V Faul: 5 Ch E. Responses (Walsh); 6.30 ES.
- DARBURY CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10.45 S Euch. *Haec dies* (Howells); 6 Ch E. St Paul's service (Howells); 6 Ch E. St Dunstan's C: Rev M Parker: 11.15 HC. Missa brevis (Berkeley): 3.30 E. Bainton in D.
- ELY CATHEDRAL:** 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Mass for five voices (Byrd). Canon D Green: 3.45 E. Rubra in A flat.
- EXETER CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 9.30 M; 10 S Euch. *Haec dies* (Niemi); 3 E. S Euch. *Missa solenne* (Niemi); 6 ES. A: Blessed be the God and father (Wesley).
- GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10.15 Euch. Missa brevis (Berkeley). Canon N Heavisdens: 12.15 C; 3 E. Wood in F.
- GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 9.45 Euch. Mass for five voices (Byrd): 11.30 M. Stanford in C. Rev Dr R Harvey: 6.30 ES. Chichester service (Walton).
- HEREFORD CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10 Euch. Rheinberger in E. Archdeacon of Hereford: 11.30 M. Harwood in A flat: 3.30 E. Rev F S Thomas.
- LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch. *Haec dies* (Byrd); 3.30 E. Dyon in D.
- LONDON CATHEDRAL:** 7.40 L; 8 HC: 9.30 S Euch. Stanford in B flat: 12.30 HC: 3.45 E. Responses (Ayewald). Venerabile cor lauriente.
- LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10.30 Battle of the Atlantic service. Rev R York: 3 Ch E. Canon M Boylings: 4 HC.
- LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL:** 8, 9 Euch: 11 S Euch. Darke in F. Rev R C Parrish: 12.15 HC. 3.30 Ch E. Wood in F: 6.30 E.
- NORWICH CATHEDRAL:** 7.30 MP: 8, 9.15 HC: 10.30 Euch. *Missa solenne* (Niemi): 3.30 E. Canon R Hammer: 6.30 ES. PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.30 M; 10.30 Euch. Harwood in A flat: 3.30 E. Wood in E flat. Canon T Short.
- PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 9.30 C. Mass of St Thomas (Thorne). Canon J Byrne: 11 S Euch. *Missa sacra* (Niemi) (Haydn), Canon J Hedges: 6 E.
- RIPON CATHEDRAL:** 7.30 M; 8, 9.30 Euch: 11.30 Ch Euch. Mass for four voices (Byrd): 12.30 Euch: 8.30 E.
- ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 9.45 Euch. 10.30 S Euch. *Missa solenne* (Niemi). Canon E Turner: 3.15 E. Kelly in C.
- SALISBURY CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10 Euch. Mozart in F: 11.30 M. G. A. For a closer walk with God (Ives), Canon D Durston: 3 Ch E. Watson in E.
- SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10 M; 10.30 S Euch. Listen sweet dove (Ives): 2.30 HMS Sheffield service: 6.30 Festival.
- SOUTH WARK CATHEDRAL:** 9 Euch: 11 Ch Euch. *Missa acerra* Christ munera (Palestina); 3 Ch E. Stanford in B flat: 6.30 Euch. *Missa brevis* (Telemann).
- SOUTHWELL MINSTER:** 7.45 L; 8 HC: 10.30 M. Britton in C: 3.15 E. 6.30 Cool industry service.
- TRURO CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 9 M; 10 S Euch. *Missa brevis* (Berkeley): 6 E. Stanford in B flat.
- WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 9.15 C. The Lord is my shepherd (Jacob): 11 Sol C. The Lord is my shepherd (Jacob): 11 Sol C. Whitlock in G. Canon R Gage: 6.30 E. Harwood in A flat. Canon R Capper.
- WELLS CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch. Darke in F: 11.30 M. First service (Howells): 3 E. Collegium regale (Howells).
- WESTMINSTER ABBEY:** 8 HC: 10 M. Short service (Gibbons). Canon M Middle: 11.15 Euch. O bone Jesu (Palestina); 3 E. Westminster Cathedral: 7, 8, 9 Mass: 10.30 Sol Mass. Missa Pape Marcellini (Palestina): 12 Mass: 3.30 Sol V & B. Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bainton); 3.30 M. Mass.
- YORK MINSTER:** 7.30 M; 8, 8.45 HC: 10 S Euch. *Missa bel' amittiri* aliera (Lassus): 11.30 S Euch. Darke in F: 4 E. Wesley in E.
- ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL:** Hertfordshire: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch: 11 M. Collegium regale (Howells): 12.15 HC: 6.30 E. A: Love regale (Howells) (Vaughan Williams). Made me welcome (Vaughan Williams).
- ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL:** St Albans: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euch. Ireland in C: 6.30 Ch E. Noble in B minor.
- ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL:** Denbighshire: 8 HC: 11 Ch Euch. *Parva antiphona* (Salmata). Very Rev R Gouldstone: 3.30 Ch E.
- ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL:** Pembrokeshire: 8 HC: 9.30 Cymru Bendigaid: 11.15 Ch M. Ireland in F: 6 Ch E. Noble in B minor.
- ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10 S Euch. *Matthias* in C: 11.30 HC. Canon M Higgins: 3.30 Ch E. Wood in F.
- ST FIN BARR'S CATHEDRAL:** Cork: 8 Euch: 11.15 Ch Euch. *Ravenshoe* in C. Rev Dr C E J Fryer: 6 Ch E. Home in D minor.
- ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL:** Southwark: 8.15 L; 11.30 M. *Missa* Haydn in G. Father J E Cronin: 5 E. 6 LM.
- ST GILES CATHEDRAL:** Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC: 11.30 MS. *Justorum animae* (Stanford). 6 Fettes College chapel choir: 8 ES. Rev J K Striven.
- ST MACHARS CATHEDRAL:** Old Aberdeen: 11 MS. Rev R Fraser: 6 HC.
- ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL:** Edinburgh: 8 Euch: 10.30 S Euch. *Missa brevis* (Kodaly). 3.30 Ch E. Eccc vici Leo (Phillips).
- ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL:** Dublin: 8.30 Euch: 11.15 S Euch. Schubert in G. Rev N Bayne: 3.15 Ch E. St John's service (Howells): 4.20 Organ recital: David Leigh.
- ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10 M. St Paul's service (Cahen): 11.30 S Euch: 3.15 E. Howells in E. Venerabile Prichard: 5 Organ recital: Roger Judé: 6 Ch E.
- RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL:** SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy. Kievan and traditional polyphony. Met Anthony.
- ALL SAINTS:** W1: 8 LM: 10.20 MP: 11 HM. Stanford in C. Rev I Davies: 5.15 LM: 6 E & B. St Ann's in G.
- THE ASSUMPTION:** W1: 11 Jesus jumati se (Palestina).
- BLOOMSBURY CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH:** WC2: 11, 6.30.
- CHELSEA OLD CHURCH:** SW3: 8 HC: 10 Children's Service: 11 C. Rev Dr P Ely: 6 E. Bays in C. Rev J Davies: 3 F. Responses (Jallist). Rev P R C Abram: 7 Residents informal service.
- CHAPEL ROYAL:** St James's Palace: 8.30 HC: 11.15 S Euch. *Missa brevis* (Berkeley). Rev G S Pedley.
- CHAPEL ROYAL:** Hampton Court Palace: WC2: 11 S Euch. *Missa brevis* (Wells): 3.30 E. Blair in B minor.
- GROSVENOR CHAPEL:** South Audley St. W1: 11 S Euch. *Missa brevis* (Haydn). Gloria in excelsis deo (Weelkes). Rev S J Hobbs.
- QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY:** WC2: 11 S Euch. Stanford in G. The Chaplain.
- THE TEMPLE CHURCH:** EC4: 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP. O taste and see (Vaughan Williams).
- GUARDS CHAPEL:** Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Ch Euch. Darke in F. Band of the Life Guards. Rev J H E Roskilly.
- ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL:** SE10: 11 S Euch. Sunshon in F. Rev G Clifford.

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Getting under the skin of Turkey

Cappadocia · 27

THE TIMES TRAVEL

Changing times on the kibbutz

Israel · 33



Get your tattoo and body piercing done at Arubis Warpup in Haight Ashbury, favoured district of the flower-power generation. The latest fashions are even more extreme: body branding is the latest fad

Sorry, I was watching a rainbow

Oliver Bennett chills out on the streets of San Francisco, the city where anything goes

The woman across the street, walking several dogs, yells over: "OHMYGAAAD! I do not believe it! *Heterosexuals!* Where are you guys from?"

My girlfriend and I had briefly held hands, apparently a noteworthy sight. We chatted for a couple of minutes with Louise the gregarious dogwalker, who then breezed off parkwards.

Then again, this was San Francisco, not only the crucible of gay liberation but also the most progressive city in America. What is considered deviant in many parts of the world is quite reasonable here. For example, this is a town that has gone beyond mere tattooing and piercing. The fashion now is to be branded by a white-hot iron at a shop called Body Manipulations. As the banners for San Francisco's new Main Library boast: "Anything is Possible". Most consensual acts are allowed — with the recent exception of smoking in public places — and they usually happen here first.

"San Francisco does what the rest of fashionable America does five years later," says Pedro, manager of a clothes shop in North Beach. "It's always had go-ahead politics. We voted out Reagan. In fact, we never do what Washington tells us, man!"

But on my first day in this city, walking down the charmingly gentrified Fillmore Street in the airy Pacific Heights district, it struck me how genteel San Francisco is. It may be faddish, always moving to the next big thing, but the pace of life is gracious and relaxed. I did not hear a car horn honked for ten days, save in the Golden Gate tunnel where it is custom to honk vigorously as you enter in a kind of automotive rally-ho. It is a city that cajoles you into becoming laid-back and mellow.

This approach to life makes a San Franciscan breakfast an experience that bears little relation to the rushed British job. A daily saunter took me to a nearby juice bar-cum-newsagent, Juicy News, for a pint of fresh fruit smoothie: mango, banana and orange fortified



Beat writers are remembered thanks to City Lights bookstore

GINNIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

with supplements such as spirulina and trendy flu-preventing herb echinacea (which Juicy News called, rather wittily, "The Cold Warrior").

San Francisco is body-astempe territory. Fiona Muir, a British expat who manages a fashionable restaurant called Bix in the perennially cool North Beach district, has been impressed. "It's difficult to get a bad meal here," she says. "The ingredients are sensational, usually organic, and chefs are very creative, always playing with new combinations. I would say that San Francisco is perhaps the best place to eat out in the US."

Food shopping is fun too. At the Whole Foods supermarket in Pacific Heights you can also buy a ten-minute massage.

Yet Fiona admits that after several years she still has trouble understanding the locals. For one key reason, they are Californian; they do things differently.

My host and guide to San

Francisco, Zsuzi Saper, displaced from the East Coast for at least ten years, had the same problem. "I went into my office recently and everyone was late," she said. "Why? Because they'd been watching a rainbow. And the boss completely understood. This must be the only city in the States where you can use the rainbow excuse."

In and around San Francisco, the woodwork creaks to reveal eccentricity on a scale unknown even in our dotier stately homes. While lunching in Mill Valley, a trendy little town half-an-hour north of San Francisco amid the redwoods, an otherwise straight-forwardly post-hippy woman at the next table was wearing a small, bright, live green parrot on her left breast.

"Humdrum," said Zsuzi. "The other day I saw someone shopping in the supermarket with her macaw. And she was asking its advice on what to buy."

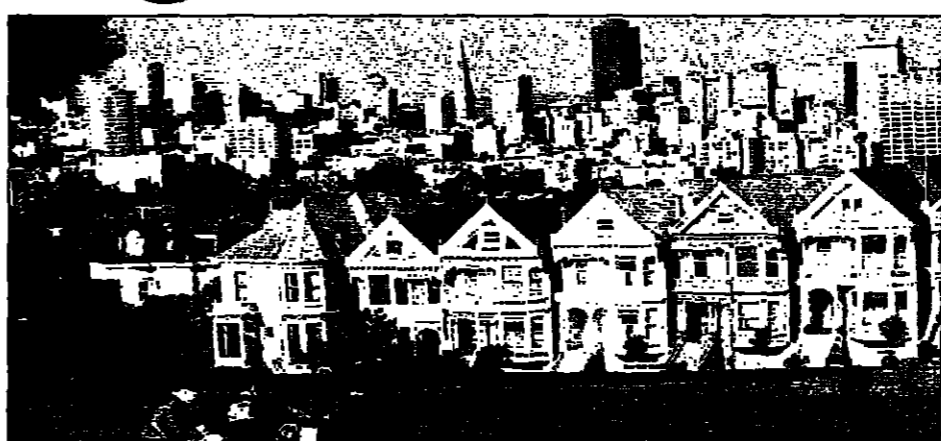
A key intersection in the residential areas, there are bins from which San Franciscans pick up their newspapers. One magazine, called *The Learning Annex*, has every conceivable kind of healing category from The Tibetan Rites of Rejuvenation to How to Make Dollars In The Adult Business on the Net. In San

Francisco, personal growth and wallet growth are not incompatible. The good-life ethos feeds right down to the less fortunate end of the market. "How do you spell stress relief?" reads a sign at a low-rent caravan park south of the city, before answering itself: "Vacation!"

In San Francisco's mostly excellent free newspapers, lonely hearts are perhaps the most coded, in the world. Nobody "desperately seeks", but targets with the ruthless specificity of a Scud missile. If they want a non-smoking, drug-free, Asian, bisexual between the ages of 30 and 32, that is what they ask for. Currently fashionable is to deny access to anybody G.U. "geographically undesirable", or with a lousy address. San Franciscan idioms are also curious. A contemporary favourite, if you don't like what somebody is saying (a traffic warden, say) is to turn a palm forward and yell: "Talk to the hand." Most visitors will find themselves involuntarily drawing those enduring superlatives, "totally", "awesome", "whatever".

Odd it may be, but San Francisco feels familiar to British tourists. We like the fact that it is a walker's town: safe and smallish, with Victorian streets and a reassuring literary atmosphere, whereas we tend to find Los Angeles hard to comprehend. We find favour with San Franciscans, who disparage LA as "the Southlands". Yet beneath San Francisco's gentle bohemianism is a love of novelty, reflected in its endless narrative of urban renewal. The latest cool zone is Hayes Valley, a run-down area a few years ago, which now sports smart interiors, fashion and coffee shops alongside parking lots and grocery stores.

Another oasis of gentrification is South Park, a village-style green surrounded by warehouses, and the centre of the city's thriving multimedia industry. At lunch, droves of thirty-somethings come out to sit on the green, roll their sleeves up and eat organic Caesar salad; the refuelling of San Francisco's Internet intelligentsia. A short walk away is SoMa (South of Market Street), a warehouse district that has now become a bar-crawling, nightclubbing zone. It has recently acquired a new Museum of Modern Art. The latter is worth a look for Mario Botta's dramatic building alone. We sat outside the Yerba white, transixed by a group of baggy-trousered youths playing hackysack, the object of which is to keep a



Victorian streets add to the reassuring feel of San Francisco for the British visitor

small beanbag from touching the ground using your feet. But of course, San Francisco was the forcing ground for fads such as Frisbee throwing and skateboarding.

It is a town built for neighbourhood-hopping. A small distance from SoMa is the Mission, an edgy, vibrant district inhabited by a peculiarly San Franciscan demographic of Mexicans and lesbians. Then one rolls uphill into a suburb of wooden 19th-century houses in the "gingerbread" style. This is the famous Castro: such an institution that straight tourists come in to see the "gay ghetto". The gift shops here are a triumph of consumer decadence, selling items such as dolls with "bad hair days".

San Francisco knows how to exploit its hipster heritage, and the Haight Ashbury district, lodestar for the hippies, has become an act of some distinction. Whereas in superheritage-type towns such as Williamsburg in Florida, resting actors dress as Confederate soldiers or Abraham Lincoln, Haight's superannuated star children of the late Sixties pose for pictures and play guitar for tips.

One such man, in max-length multicoloured velvet, played early Paul Simon songs raucously on his guitar for us, while 1998 swirled about him unnoticed. Also crucial to San Francisco's counter-culture legacy is North Beach. Here it was in the Fifties that the beatniks gathered to get drunk, stoned and contemplate the moment. Thanks to surviving poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the great beat writers have been commemorated and Jack Kerouac Street now runs by Ferlinghetti's City Lights bookstore. But whoever the next beats, hippies, Generation X-ers or Net-heads are, San Francisco will attract them. Ever liberal and non-conformist, this Western town will always be receptive to people pushing new frontiers.

FACT FILE

Getting there: Oliver Bennett bought his ticket from Virgin Atlantic (01293 747747), which flies non-stop from Heathrow. Virgin is offering savings on return flights in May (must be booked before May 15 and completed by June 15): £347 midweek departure per person, £377 weekend, excluding £44 taxes. British Airways (0345 222111) also flies non-stop daily. Continental, American, Northwest, Delta, TWA and United also fly to San Francisco.

On-line: San Francisco is very switched on, with more than 5,000 web sites, including hotel reservations (<http://www.hotels.com>). See the *Time Out Guide* (Penguin, £9.99) for a good selection.

While there: San Francisco Convention and Visitors' Bureau at Suite 900, 201 Third Street at Howard Street (001 415 974 6900). Visitors' Information Center, Hallidie Plaza, corner of Market Street and Powell Street (291 2000).

Eating out: Do not leave if too late: restaurant kitchens often close by 10.30pm-11pm. Recommended: Bix, 56 Gold Street off Montgomery (433 6300), an opulent, Thirties-style restaurant with classic dishes, \$30 plus for two. Rose Pistola, 532 Columbus Avenue (399 0499), a fashionable Cal-Ital restaurant; \$40 for two. Zuni Cafe, 1658 Market Street at Gough (532 2522), excellent seafood and coolish clientele; \$40 for two. Fog City Diner, 1300 Battery Street (982 2000), a gentrified diner overlooking the bay, is renowned for its submerge sandwiches: \$40 for two.

Reading: *San Francisco Bay Guardian* and *SF Weekly* (free weekly papers you can find in shops and cafes) are full of listings info. *Time Out*, *Lonely Planet* and *Rough Guide* all do worthwhile guides. For background, read anything by Armistead Maupin. Barney Hoskins's *Beneath the Diamond Sky* is an excellent illustrated history of Haight Ashbury's psychedelic years. Jack Kerouac's *On The Road* (Penguin £6.99), *Dharma Bums* (Paladin £6.99) and *Desolation Angels* (Paladin £3.99) will put you in the beat mood. Pick up a copy of *Literary San Francisco* by Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Nancy Peters from City Lights Bookstore (262 8193).

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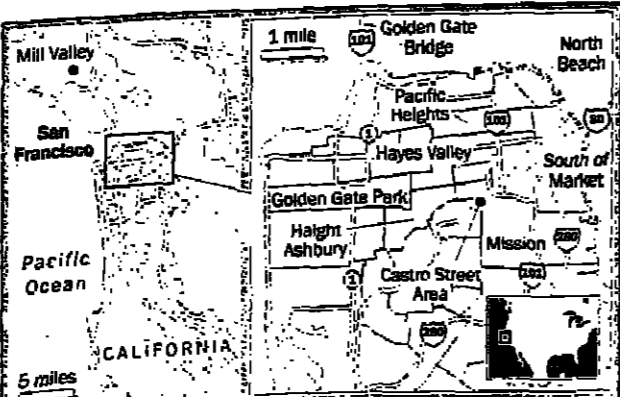
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A brush with the old masters

A painter walks into an inn in the south of France. He's dying for a beer, but he's penniless. He offers the innkeeper the landscape under his arm in return for a glass of beer. The innkeeper accepts, reluctantly; the walls of his bar are already plastered with Monets, Van Goghs...

Remember the old lager advertisement? Like me, you might have thought it was a clever vignette made up to sell the drink. But in 19th century France it was common for struggling artists to pay for their board and lodging with their works.

In southern Brittany, dozens of artists were drawn to the region, as much by the fact that it was cheap to live as by its pretty scenery and wooded tidal estuaries delving inland from sandy beaches. The same can be said for the tens of thousands of British holiday-makers who flock there yearly.

Paul Gauguin, along with fellow artists Meyer de Haan, Paul Sérusier and Emile Bernard, holed up in le Pouldu in 1891. Now one of the most sun-drenched of the many sleepy coastal resorts, then it was quieter still — home to a handful of farmers, fishermen and seaweed collectors. The artists stayed in the Buvette de la Plage, a tiny inn which they decorated with murals and paintings. The writer André Gide, who dropped by on his travels, was taken with the scene, describing the colony of painters as "barefoot, superbly bohemian and loudspoken".

The sleepy harbours and vivid colours of southern Brittany were immortalised by Gauguin and his fellow painters. Fred Mawer visits their old haunts

France for his famously productive period in Tahiti. As surety for the bill of Fr300 he'd run up, he left the inn's owner, Marie Henry, some paintings. When he returned in 1894, he tried to get them back. But the local court found in Madame Henry's favour, and Gauguin even had to pay the legal costs. After she died in 1945, her art collection — some 130 works — was sold by her sons to galleries around the world.

Sadly, the Buvette de la Plage is now the characterless, modern Café de la Plage. However, Marie Henry's old hostelry has been reconstructed two doors down. We know, by chance, roughly what it looked like then: the original murals were discovered hidden under seven layers of wallpaper by a decorator in the 1920s and photographed.

Today, the walls of Maison Marie Henry's tiny rooms are covered in a changing display of contemporary paintings. Many are by the artists who once lived here. But the highlight of an all-too-short tour (only in French) is the dining-room, where murals painted by, among others, Gauguin,

have been painstakingly recreated. The tender portrait of a breast-feeding woman is of Marie Henry, nicknamed La Poupée for her doll-like looks; it is a copy, the original was painted by her lover de Haan.

Gauguin and his fellow artists had retreated to the tranquillity of le Pouldu from Pont-Aven, at the head of the sensuous Aven estuary. Then a bustling port, since the 1860s it had also been a thriving artists' colony. The painters preferred the port to more rustic bases in Brittany because the locals spoke French instead of Breton.

Gauguin first came to Pont-Aven in 1886. He stayed in the main square near the bridge in a place called Pension Gloanec, which is now a newsagents. The pension's owner, Marie-Jeanne Gloanec, was also a recipient of many paintings in lieu of payment from her creative guests. Apparently, Gauguin gave her a still life as a gift; she didn't like his style so she pretended it was the work of a novice in the hope that she would accept it.

When he arrived in Brittany, Gauguin was aligned to the impressionist school of painting, but by early 1888, his paintings were changing. This was partly due to the influence of the primitive Celtic traditions of the region, as he acknowledged: "There is something wild and primitive about it — when my wooden clogs strike this granite ground, I hear the dull, muffled, powerful tone I seek in my painting."

As important was the inspiration provided by Emile Bernard, who was applying vivid, unalloyed colours to his canvasses in wide, flat blocks, with no shading or traditional sense of perspective. Gauguin took up this unacademic, non-realistic style, and became the seminal figure in what soon



Landscape at Pont-Aven, painted by Paul Gauguin in 1888, one of many works that were inspired by the area

became known as the Pont-Aven school. His maxim was: "Don't copy nature too literally, just look at it and dream." The school, which petered out when he went to the South Seas, has been called the first chapter in the history of modern art, and led to Fauvism and Cubism.

Its legacy, in pretty but touristy present-day Pont-Aven, takes the form of tea towels and biscuit tins ennobled with the artist's works. There are dozens of art galleries and the town museum displays a few permanent works from the school, though sometimes they are loaned out for exhibition.

Included in the display are evocative photos of the rakish painters sporting outlandish hats and handlebar moustaches — the Breton women posing with them, with their collars or bonnets, appear under-dressed by comparison.

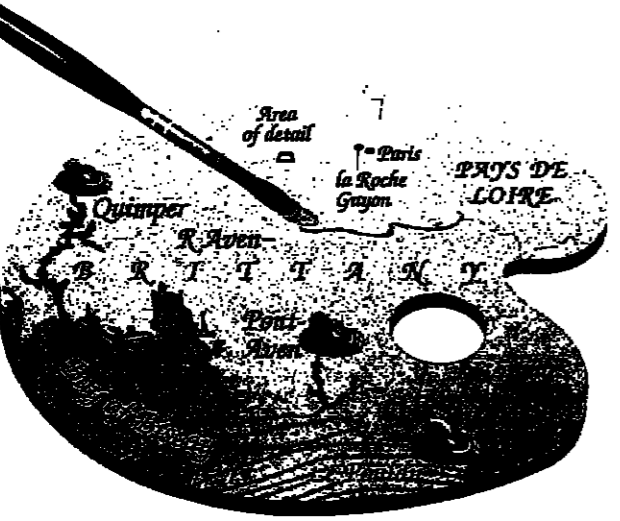
Compared to Monet's garden in Giverny or Flatford Mill in Constable country, you have to work hard to match southern Brittany's landscapes with their artistic counterparts. Where this region scores higher, is seeing it through the eyes of the Pont-Aven school, not just landscapes reappearing as paintings but how the real and the imaginary can be blended.



The sleepy harbour at Pont-Aven, Brittany, once a bustling port and an artist's haven

FACT FILE

- Getting there: Fred Mawer travelled with Brittany Ferries (0990 143537). Standard return fares for a car and two adults, excluding cabins, from £270 in high season. Condor Ferries (01305 761551) has a new high-speed service from Weymouth to St Malo (four and a half hours) from May 1. Standard return for car and two adults is £150-£180.
- Where to stay: Brittany Ferries has cottages to rent and hotel rooms in southern Brittany. The Moulin de Rosmadec (00 332 9806 0022) in Pont-Aven has a Michelin-starred restaurant and four comfortable bedrooms (around £60 B&B). Book in advance.
- What to see: The Maison Marie Henry (2 9839 9851) open daily from June to September 15; £2.50 for 20-minute tours (students £1.50). The Musée de Pont-Aven (2 9806 1443) open daily; £2 (£1.50, students and 12 to 20-year-olds). April to Sept, Tues to Sat. Pont-Aven's tourist office (2 9806 0470) runs 90-minute town and museum tours, 11am and 4pm; £2.50 (students £1.50). The Musée des Beaux-Arts (2 9895 4520) in Quimper has a room devoted to the Pont-Aven school; 10am-midday, 2pm-6pm except Tuesdays; £2.50 (students £1.50).
- Reading: A new edition of *La Route des Peintres en Cornouaille*, in English and French (£18 softback, £22 hardback), is due for publication next month. Copies available from the Pont-Aven tourist office and the above museums. *Brittany* (Everyman Guides, £16.99) has a good section on the Pont-Aven school.
- Further information: French Tourist Office (0891 244123, premium rates) for accommodation in Pont-Aven and le Pouldu.



Creating an impression

If it hadn't been for our hosts, we might never have discovered that their corner of Normandy had been as popular with the Impressionists as Provence. Sisley painted at la Roche Guyon; Monet lived nearby at Vétheuil before he moved to Giverny. Not to mention Corot...

Stephen Gardiner finds inspiration at a Normandy artistic colony



The Chateau, la Roche Guyon, by Georges Braque © ADAGP, Paris, and DACS, London, 1998

"All those artists worked around here," said M Cotterel, in whose auberge, 50 miles west of Paris, we were staying. "Pissarro, Renoir, Cézanne and Braque as well."

Finding the village had been a piece of luck. We were driving from Versailles to Dieppe to catch a ferry back to Britain and were looking for somewhere to stay when we stumbled upon a chateau. We decided to take a look and it was then we noticed Au Vieux Donjon, the auberge.

We were so taken by the area that we ended up spending a week exploring the village and its environs: the mysterious châteaux (which has been empty since the Second World War when Rommel used it as his headquarters); the Seine, with its tranquil riverbank walk lined with trees and, high above the chateau, accessed by a secret passage, the round donjon (the tower or keep of a castle), from which there was an astonishing view of chalk outcrops and the Seine looping across flat Normandy fields.

It was stunningly beautiful, but what added to the appeal

was knowing that these scenes had been the Impressionists' inspiration. Everything started to look like a canvas in the Louvre. Images of famous paintings kept springing to mind: Pissarro's *Hay Gatherer*, Monet's *S-shaped Poplars-on-the-Epte*. We began to imagine today's scenes through the Impressionists' eyes: the Restaurant de la Poste at Vernon was transformed into a Renoir, the terrace of Bonnard's house into one of his own paintings.

Cézanne visited la Roche Guyon in 1885 and stayed with Renoir. We also visited Bernaucourt, a gem of a village on the Seine, to see Emile Zola's house, where Cézanne painted. Braque, too, was drawn to this artistic colony. He painted the chateau from across the river during his Cubist phase in the 1900s.

As we took a walk along the river we bumped into a woman who commented: "It's paradise," as she passed. It might have been a cliché, but it was a perfect summary.

NORMANDY FACT FILE

Getting there: B&O Stena Line (0990 980980) has standard return Newhaven-Dieppe fares from £155 for a car and up to nine passengers; April to Sept, must be booked by May 31.

Vieux (00 331 3479 7006) in la Roche Guyon — run by the Cotterels — has double rooms from £22, half-board.

Further information: French Tourist Office (0891 244123, premium rate line).

Where to stay: Auberge Au

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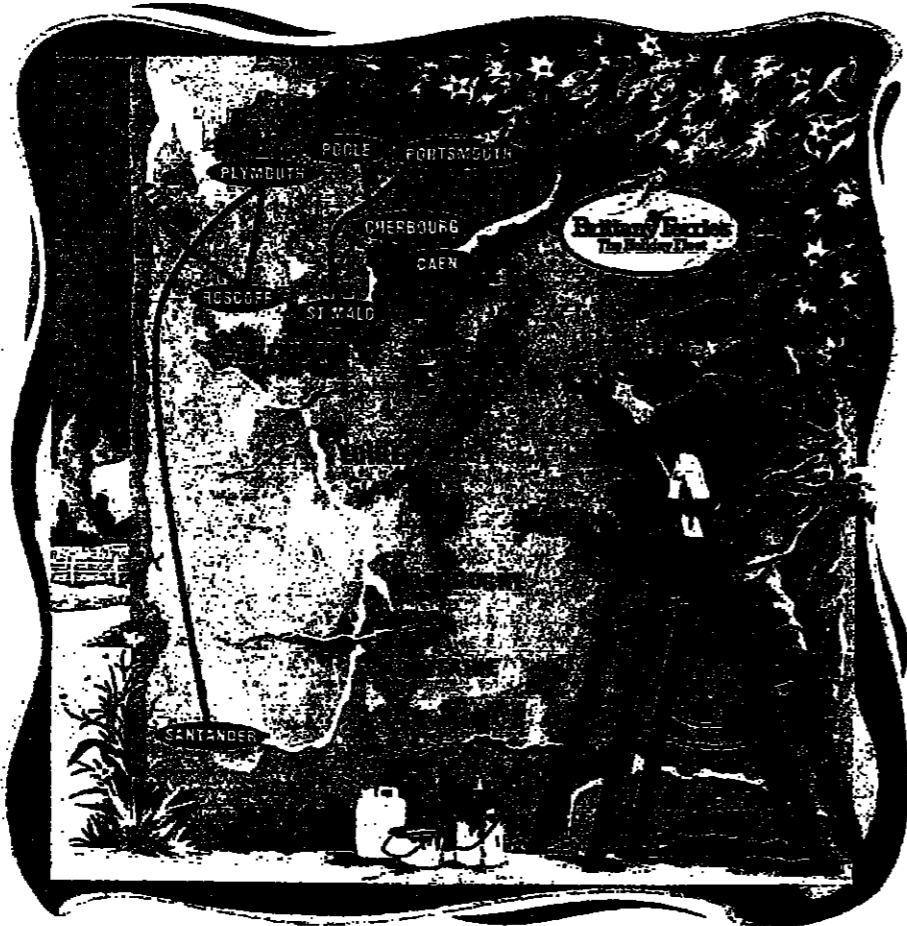
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كنا من الأصل

Jim Keeble explains how to survive the Cannes festival and where to recover in peace

I have the same nightmare each May. I am standing in a street so crowded I can't move...

The Cannes festival (which this year runs from May 13 to May 24) is still the world's premier film festival...

Arriving at Cannes during the film festival, you could be forgiven for thinking you'd turned up in a Battle of Agincourt theme park...

The castle under assault, and the official centre of the festival, is the Palais des Festivals, a particularly horrible concrete edifice nicknamed 'the bunker'...

The only stars you will see at the Palais are likely to be the result of a camera lens hitting you on the head...

But all is not lost. The real action in Cannes takes place at the bars of the Croisette hotels. The Majestic (0033 492 987700) is the hippest...

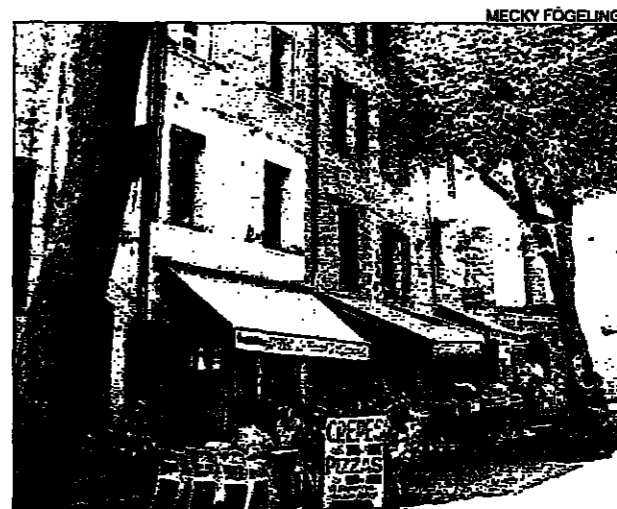


One hopeful meets a scrum of photographers. For most visitors, it is almost impossible to see the stars...

Join the movie mêlée . . .



Escape the festival throng at Bormes les Mimosas, left: the ultimate bolthole for the Cannes-weary is the thickly wooded island of Port-Cros...



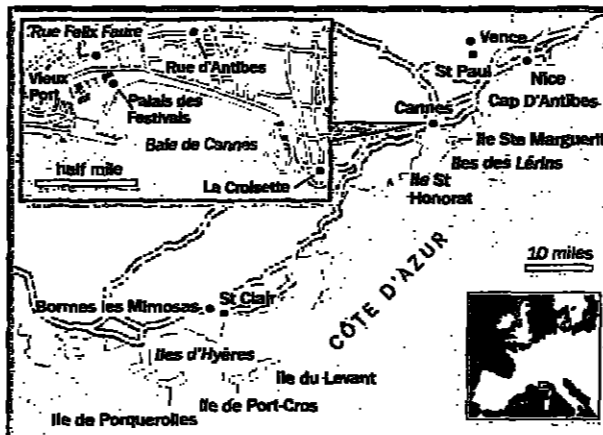
If you're feeling really brave (and rich), head east to the Cap d'Antibes and the Hôtel du Cap. This Italianate villa was once home to F. Scott Fitzgerald...

In town, non-hotel action centres on two bars: Le Petit Majestic (6, rue Tony Allard, 493 399492), which is usually full of Brit and Aussie inde-

Nice tends to turn a snobbish blind eye to the starry goings on half an hour down the road, and is therefore a good place to get away from talk of Pamela Anderson's talents. Vieux Nice is seductively Italian in feel with narrow streets and small vibrant restaurants...

Bormes-les-Mimosas, situated at the heart of the most beautiful and least spoiled stretch of the southern French coast, is a small hillside village of terracotta roofs and palm trees. It has stunning views to the sea and is within 20 minutes drive of the best beaches on the Côte d'Azur...

. . . or relax away from the crowds



two thickly wooded islands with pretty beaches and more history than a Merchant-Ivory flick, accessible from Cannes' Vieux Port. Ile de Sainte-Marguerite is the prettier of

the two with acres of woodland and shaded paths. It was in the island's 17th-century fort that the so-called Man in the Iron Mask is supposed to have been imprisoned in 1687. He

was the older brother of Louis XIV, a rogue doctor, an Italian diplomat or Leonardo di Caprio, depending on who's telling you the story. Ile Saint-Honorat is even

more secluded as it belongs to a monastery founded by Saint Honorat in the fourth century. The monks still sell honey and a strange aromatic liqueur called Lérina (the Greek name

for the islands) made from 40 different herbs. Ferries run at least once an hour to the islands (€5 return) from the Gare Maritime des Îles de Lérina (493 391182).

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Cannes is like the Battle of Agincourt, with Harvey Weinstein as Henry V. Includes details about the festival and local events.

CANNES FACT FILE. Where to stay: The Carlton Hotel, (493 064006) at 58, La Croisette. Getting there: British Airways (0345 222111) has four flights daily...

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Schiphol Airport has just one terminal, making it easier for travellers to find their way around. More than five million Britons used Schiphol last year

Brits go Dutch to miss queues

It might sound like double Dutch, but Schiphol in Amsterdam would like to be Britain's number one airport. An increasing number of British travellers are flying to Schiphol to connect with long-haul flights, rather than using Heathrow.

The reason is simple. It is now possible to fly to Schiphol from 25 airports in Britain, including Inverness, Southampton, Cardiff and Norwich. The latest addition was Sheffield, from where direct flights to Schiphol started in February. Yet you can fly to Heathrow from only 11 airports in Britain.

There are ten flights a day to Schiphol from Birmingham, eight from Stansted, seven from East Midlands and four each from Norwich, Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Newcastle. The number of British passengers flying to Schiphol rocketed by nearly one million last year to 5.4 million, of which one-third were connecting to other flights.

"We've been saying that it's easier to fly via Schiphol for long-haul flights from regional airports in Britain for about 20 years now," a spokesman for Schiphol said. "We used to say that we were Britain's third airport after Heathrow

Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport is luring British passengers from Heathrow, writes Steve Keenan

and Gatwick, but these days some people see us as Britain's number one."

Most of the growth has come from regional airports in Britain as holidaymakers decide to bypass crowds, building work and terminal-switching at Heathrow to enjoy Schiphol's user-friendly single-terminal airport.

KLM, the Dutch national carrier, is cashing in. Last year KLM bought Air UK and rebranded Britain's third largest scheduled airline as KLM UK. It also owns Transavia (which flies between Gatwick and Schiphol) and now operates from 21 British airports. KLM has developed a system that reduces connection times at Schiphol, and last month it scrapped its complicated fare structure in favour of three ticket types. Crucially, there is no extra charge for the short

hop to Amsterdam for British passengers who have bought long-haul flights.

Heathrow, needless to say, is not best pleased. "Schiphol is an airport that markets itself very aggressively," said a spokesman for BAA, which runs Heathrow. "Whether it is Frankfurt, Paris Charles de Gaulle, Schiphol or Heathrow, there is tremendous competition to attract the transfer passenger in Europe."

However, the spokesman bullishly pointed out that most of Heathrow's passengers have always come from the southeast. "We are primarily here to serve the southeast market. Heathrow is, if you like, one enormous local airport."

Nevertheless, passenger figures indicate that Heathrow is losing out and travel agents are increasingly singing the praises of the Dutch airport. A spokeswoman for Trailfinders said: "It is more convenient to fly from your local airport than to come down to London. KLM also doesn't charge more for flying from your local airport, while British Airways often does."

In comparing Trailfinders' prices last week, there was little to choose between BA and KLM — despite BA putting sharply-reduced promotional fares onto the market. Prices for flying from Newcastle to New York with BA (via Heathrow) were £277, compared to £305 with KLM (via Schiphol). But in June, BA is charging £375 compared to £347 with KLM.

HEATHROW AND SCHIPHOL — HOW THE GIANTS COMPARE



Costa Coffee at Heathrow

SHOPPING Heathrow makes a huge amount of money from its retail activities — for example, more than 25 million bottles of perfume were sold at the airport last year, accounting for 10 per cent of all British perfume sales. In all, the airport has 400,000sq ft of retail space, with every traveller spending an average of £29. Shops include Harrods, Liberty and Bally.

BAA operates BonusPoints, a loyalty card system in which money spent at commercial outlets in Heathrow and other BAA-run airports rewards customers with cash vouchers.

Schiphol is renowned for its tax-free shopping centre and the ubiquitous yellow "See, Buy, Fly" bags roam the globe.

Within Europe, only Heathrow generates more shopping sales than Schiphol. But plans to triple retail space by 2001 will still only give Schiphol 10 per cent of the shopping space that Heathrow now has.

There are only 47 shops and, compared to Heathrow, they are shabby and tired. A big advantage is that connecting passengers heading for, say, Germany, can pay in sterling and receive their change in marks, with official bank rates used and no commission charged.

Before passing passport control, there is a plaza with a further 40 shops open from 7am to 10pm.

EATING Heathrow is vastly superior to Schiphol. In Terminal 1, after passport control, facilities range from McDonald's through Costa Coffee and Pret A Manger to the Caviar House. Landside (before passport control), there is Harry Ramsden's or Noon Indian restaurant.

The 52 outlets are checked daily by Egon Ronay inspectors and standards have improved.

Schiphol has only four bars and four restaurants. With the exception of the Top Lounge and La Forêt, the choice is generally of the cheese roll and coffee variety. By 2001, the Top Lounge will go, to be replaced by McDonald's and a "foodcourt".

OTHER FACILITIES Showers are available at Heathrow's Flight Connections Centre and in Terminal 3 (showers only available at Schiphol in adjoining hotels).

A 15-minute high-speed rail link to Paddington is due to open in June from Heathrow (ticket price not yet set, but expected to be about £10).

Schiphol has a casino, complete with blackjack and roulette, which relieves 700 travellers of their holiday money daily. But a golf putting green that opened four years ago has closed due to lack of interest.

● Heathrow inquiries: 0181-759 4321
● Schiphol inquiries: 00 31 6350 34050



Schiphol shopping bag from its famous duty-free centre

Airports and airlines serving Paris and Brussels also want a slice of the market. Sabena now flies to Brussels from ten British airports, having added Birmingham last month. Starsted becomes its 11th on May 17. Meanwhile, Air France has signed up several airlines to operate flights on its behalf to Paris Charles de Gaulle, where a new terminal with room for another 15 million passengers a year opened last month.

Heathrow would like to fight back, but the problem at the moment is that it is full. In the year to March, Heathrow handled 58.1 million passengers, about four million more than it was originally designed to take. There is no room for new airlines and the public inquiry into a fifth terminal has been dragging on for three-and-a-half years (if approved, T5 will not open until 2004 at the earliest).

"It is just ridiculous," Michael Maine, BAA executive director, said. "All our rivals — Paris Charles de Gaulle, Schiphol and Frankfurt — have expanded. We are now struggling to keep up."

Meanwhile, Schiphol, with 31 million passengers last year, plans to increase numbers to 44 million by 2003, when an expanded terminal and a fifth runway opens.

How will Heathrow cope? "We have been facing competition from Europe for years," the BAA spokesman said. "If we get the extra terminal and are able to keep our flight routes, I don't think we face any major problems."

Kiss and Fly out of America's tin shower

Andrew Eames reports from the world's busiest airport, Chicago's O'Hare

Pilots call O'Hare airport the "tin shower" — because of the huge amount of metalwork dropping out of the sky at any one time. It is a well-deserved nickname: the Chicago airport is the busiest in the world.

This airport has much to recommend it. Gospel singers busk in the underground walkway, you can have a massage, a shoeshine, go to the dentist.

Kids on the Fly, a children's play area with simulated cockpits and jumbo-shaped play areas, is eye-catchingly placed at the heart of Terminal Two.

The new Terminal One hall by Helmut Jahn, with its lofty steel-ribbed cathedral nave, has a kerbside check-in, so you don't even have to lug your baggage into the building.

The set-down areas have been christened Kiss 'N' Fly, and out in the multi-storey car parks, each floor has been branded with the name of a football, baseball or basketball team and has its own signature music. The airport man-

agement also offers a complimentary starter service to anyone who returns to their vehicle to find their battery or tyres flat.

But passing through O'Hare the other day, I couldn't help feeling it lacked something. At European terminals you can still glimpse the well-heeled, Gucci-wearing elite, leaving a lingering impression of national style as they sashay through. Compare that with the O'Hare experience, where a busy rush-hour traveller is jeans-wearing and gum-chewing. Catching a plane in America is not much grander than catching a bus.

Last year, 70 million passengers passed through, on 2,500 flights a day. Heathrow, number two airport in the world, handled 58.1 million passengers during the year, and 1,200 flights a day.

There are basic similarities between the two: a tendency to

shoebox architecture; four terminals; and both are major hubs, with 33 per cent of O'Hare's passengers, and 52 per cent of Heathrow's, changing planes to go on somewhere else. Heathrow hosts 97 airlines; O'Hare 74.

The key difference is size: Heathrow has two runways, while O'Hare has seven.

Being so runway-rich means that the latter has no problem with flight congestion or delays, except when it is closed by severe winter weather. Meanwhile, the average delay at Heathrow is currently 11 minutes, even with the extra time airlines generally add to expected flight time for jet-jams.

Heathrow can claim to be the world's number one in international terms; at O'Hare, a measly 1 per cent of passengers is travelling abroad.



Chicago's O'Hare has few problems with delays

Then there's the shopping. In O'Hare, it doesn't get much more sophisticated than Chicago Bulls T-shirt stalls and McDonald's. In Heathrow, blink and they've added more boutiques.

This is partly explained by the minimal flight-waiting time in O'Hare, but more important is a

basic difference in management. O'Hare is run by the city of Chicago to be a people-mover, not a money-maker. BAA is so commercially-minded that it even has its own whisky.

Both airports are self-financing. O'Hare's levy on the airlines at £1.80 per passenger is its principal revenue.

For BAA, the operational revenue per passenger is £4.60, more than double O'Hare's but nevertheless one of the cheapest in Europe. But for BAA these operational fees are still just a third of total income. The largest chunk (50 per cent) comes from the airport shops, and the rest from property.

But O'Hare is planning improvements: a cybercafé, a business centre, and more shops.

O'Hare's sheer size means that relations with the outside world are not as tricky as they are at Heathrow. But there has been some good PR, too. The airport soundproofing initiative has so far spent £211 million on protecting homes and schools affected by airport noise. It has also obliged airlines to phase in new, quieter aircraft.

■ Andrew Eames travelled to Chicago with British Airways (0345 222111); return fares until May 31 from £299. He stayed in the Whitehall Hotel (001 312 944 6300); rooms from £150-£210 per night, based on two sharing. O'Hare airport information: 001 773 686 2200; Chicago tourism information: 001 312 567 8500.

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Fantastic red, yellow and amber rock formations dominate the volcanic landscape of Cappadocia in Turkey's heartland. Malevolent sprites were once said to carry off unsuspecting visitors who walked among the rocks

Crazy turrets top the city of caves

Deep in the Turkish heartland, Paul Barker discovers a hidden civilisation tunnelled beneath a fantastic, fragile landscape

Black cattle graze on the high plateau of Central Anatolia, like fleas on a large brown rug. Flocks of sheep are watched by the occasional shepherd on a donkey. This is the Turkish heartland. The unemphatic panoramas are as endless and hypnotic as Middle America.

But then the geology is suddenly shaken up, as if in a kaleidoscope. Abruptly, you are in the unbelievable landscape of Cappadocia.

Here, tufa — soft volcanic stone — has been honed into fantastical shapes by the Asian winds and the winter rain. In the distance, you see the snowy peak of the now-sleeping volcano, Mount Erciyes, which deluged this countryside with ash millennia ago. But it is the foreground you can't take your eyes off. The red, yellow and amber rock has been twisted

into crazy turrets, of seemingly impossible tallness and thinness.

They are usually called "fairy chimneys". An old story says that people wandering among them were whisked away by assorted sprites. But, to my 20th-century eyes, they look both phallic and fungoid, like dubious toadstools in a Disney forest.

Each high turret is usually topped by a slightly wider cap. This is the fragment of tougher stone which has prevented these islands of tufa from being worn down to ground

level. For the time being, at least.

One of the eccentricities of Cappadocia is that you feel always to be in the presence of something evanescent. How much of this landscape will still be here in 100 years? Or even in 20? This is one compelling reason to catch it while it lasts. The danger comes not only from further climatic erosion, but also — let's acknowledge it — from tourists.

During the whole trip through Turkey — across the Bosphorus bridge from Istanbul, on to Ankara until we arrived at the Mediterranean coast — I never saw any other Britons, but there were many French, Germans and Italians. Villages, lived in by herdsmen 15 years ago, are sprouting huge hotels.

In Cappadocia, until recently, many people lived in caves. The soft rock could easily be carved. Cliffs are still as pockmarked as a Swiss cheese. One village, Ortahisar, is wrapped round the base of an extraordinary raddled cone of tufa. With increased prosperity, most caves have been abandoned. But I saw touching anomalies, like a still-inhabited troglodytic house with a solar panel above for water heating, and a battered car parked outside.

Cappadocia, however, is even more captivating below ground than above. It has always been a place of refuge. Underground "cities", of unfathomable age, are tunnelled several layers deep into the tufa. Like many of Cappadocia's treasures, they were unearthed surprisingly recently.

I went into the Kaymakli underground city, only discovered in 1964, past the usual Anatolian huffer-mugger of trinket-sellers and men playing serious games of backgammon over glasses of apple tea. To begin with, it seemed like any modest cave. But then I plunged into room after room, down low sloping passageways that would have delighted Alice's friend, the White Rabbit.

For fear of crumbling rock, you are only allowed into the



Homes were built into the rock in this formation in Cappadocia's Uchisar Valley

upper storeys. Much of the city's space was probably devoted to animals, sheltering from Anatolia's endemic wars. But you suddenly come across a poignant little chapel, for example, with a sketchy cross still painted on the wall, and a little row of small oblong holes, for burying babies.

In profoundly Muslim Turkey, this was Christian country. Thousands of Christian Greeks continued to live here until they were expelled to Crete in the 1920s. (Atatürk's new republic was established after a ferocious Greco-Turkish war.) Turks, who had lived for centuries in Crete, were expelled by the Athens government to take their place.

The most evocative heritage of early Christianity lies in Cappadocia's network of cave churches and monasteries: tufa dug-outs for prayer and contemplation. The most celebrated are in the Göreme valley. The most fragile are in Zelve, where whole chunks of hillside have fallen away, leaving church interiors, a millennium old, exposed to the sky.

Even in Göreme, I had to step around the restoration men, shoring up delicate structures. Again, no one knows how much longer these wonders, which date back to

the Byzantine era, will last.

The most perfect survivor is the Karanlık (or "Dark") Church, whose 11th-century murals still gleam. The Three Kings bow down with their golden bows of gifts. Satan wriggles impotently at the bottom of the River Jordan as Christ is baptised. Judas leans reacherously across to carry out his betrayal. An extremely hefty grilled fish confronts the Apostles as they sit down for their Last Supper.

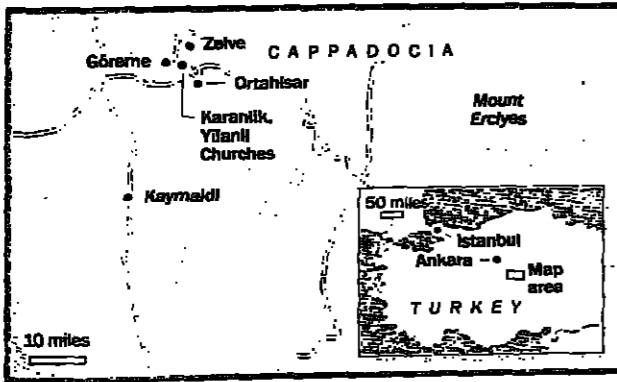
I was deeply moved by this ancient spectacle: piety glowing through the dark. Other cave churches nearby all have their own fragments of glory. In the Yilanli ("Snake") Church, for example, a red-suited St George prods at a serpentine dragon with a rather flimsy spear.

Painted high up on the walls of several churches, a mystery beetle is chewing on a corn-stalk. Is this a one-focus plague?

In many paintings, the iconic faces have had their eyes scratched out by devout Muslims, for whom the graven image is a sacrilege. New churches, however, are being uncovered and it is thought there are at least a thousand altogether. I left with a prayer for the continued revelation of new marvels. In Cappadocia, I felt I was reaching down to the roots of our civilisation.

CAPPADOCIA FACT FILE

- Getting there: Paul Barker travelled with Tapestry Holidays (0181-742 0055). From May to October, Tapestry offers a three-night trip to Cappadocia for £700, including flights to Kayseri via Istanbul, B&B accommodation (in a cave hotel) and escorted tours.
- During the same period, five-night tours are also available for £800, or seven nights for £840. The last night's accommodation may be in Istanbul, dependent on dates.
- Independent travel: Turkish Airlines (0171-766 9300) has flights to Ankara, via Istanbul, starting at £236 in May (including taxes). The price rises to £290 in July. Avis (0990 900500) has a week's car hire from Ankara airport in May from £201, including CDW and theft insurance, unlimited mileage and taxes.
- Must see: The Anatolian Civilisations Museum in Ankara is one of the few "must-sees" in this smog-bound city. It offers magical sculptures, and pottery dating back to 6000 BC.
- When to travel: May and September are the best months to travel to Cappadocia; the weather is not as scorchingly hot as in the summer months.
- Reading: Turkey (Lonely Planet, £12.99); Turkey (AA Explorer, £12.99). A Foz of the Heart by Jeremy Seal (Picador, £6.99) — a charming saunter into Turkish history.
- Health precautions: Inoculations advised: typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis A and polio. Take insect repellent for mosquitoes. Drink bottled water.
- Red tape: Take a clean £10 note per person for visa at arrival airport. Turkish currency not acceptable.



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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD



Take part in wildlife and tourism projects on the Mongolian steppes this summer, riding the rough terrain with the nomads and helping to write a local guidebook

Exploring the Steppes

RIDERS with enthusiasm rather than expertise can help on wildlife and tourism projects on the Mongolian steppes this summer with Discovery Initiatives (0171-229 9831). In the Hustain Nuru Reserve, two hours from Ulan Bator, holiday-makers will ride out on the powerful Przewalski horses with rangers monitoring their progress. At Rentshumbey they will help nomads to produce a guidebook and at the Naadam Fair, July 10 and 11, they can pit their skills against the locals in races, archery and wrestling competitions. The three-week trip, leaving July 3, costs £2,495, with another from August 30 at £2,860. Prices include flights, food, guides and accommodation.

Boules history

THE MOST famous French ball game is not le football but the more civilised pétanque or boules. It is thought to have originated earlier this century in southeast France, but actually dates back to the Pharaohs. Stone boules have even been found on Mesopotamian archaeological sites, and wooden ones were in use in the Middle Ages. A new museum, Maison de la Pétanque, on the site of a former

boules factory at Vallauris, presents the game's venerable history, explains the intricacies of preparing the perfect boules specimen and allows you to test your potential as a future champion. Who needs the World Cup?

The Maison de la Pétanque (00 334 9364 1136) is open from 9am to noon, and 2pm-6.30pm from Mondays to Saturdays between April 1 and September 30. Price £2 (£120).

CELEBRATING her 100th anniversary at the end of May and still going strong, Albion is the last working survivor of the black-stilled trading wharves that used to ply the Norfolk and Suffolk waterways carrying cargoes of coal, salt, grain, molasses and ale. She now carries passengers on trips on the Broads. The price to hire the whole boat is £125 for a day, £250 for two days for up to 12 people. Sleeping accommodation is in hammocks in the hold. For her birthday, she will once again deliver ale to selected Broads pubs. Details available from the Norfolk Wherry Trust (01603 508815).

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

You can hire your own more luxurious skippered wherry on the Broads from Blakes (01603 75444). White Mink, built in 1915 when the Broads were a popular adventure playground for wealthy



Strictly for shopaholics: the old souk in Aleppo, Syria

Edwardians, has been refitted by local craftsmen to sleep up to ten people in comfort. A two-night weekend aboard costs from £635, a week from £1,390.

Sands of time

FOLLOWING the trails blazed by D.H. Lawrence, Freya Stark and Lady Stanhope, Regal Holidays (01353 77950) has new programmes in Jordan and Syria called Footprints in the Sands of Time. Aimed at travellers who want flexibility and local contact, travel is by chauffeur-driven vehicle or self-drive hire car. There is a chance to have dinner with archaeologists, lunch in a villager's home or share a meal with a nomadic Bedu family - eating, of course, with the right hand only.

A 14-day 'Fables of the Desert and Castles' tour encircles Syria, following ancient caravan routes from Aleppo to Damascus, from Latakia on the coast to Palmyra in the eastern desert and from the Euphrates to the Roman city of Bosra. The cost is from £1,429 per person in groups of five, or £1,839 each in groups of two, including flights, car travel, half-board accommodation in four and five-star hotels and entrance fees. A five-day 'Tales of Two Cities' break to Petra and Jerash in Jordan on a similar basis costs between £599 and £679.

Potting on

A NEW idea in Andalusia from Mundi Color (0171-528 6021) should fire the enthusiasm of would-be potters. It is a three-day 'Primitive

Pottery' course in Capileira, a pretty village in the Alpujarras. First you go up into the mountains to choose your clay (the famous Tierra Roja), then you learn how to hand-mould it and create your own masterpiece using traditional, century-old techniques. A visit to an ancient workshop with a wood-burning kiln of Moorish design, walks in the hills, tuition and daily picnics are included in the price of £150 (course only; this price excludes travel and accommodation).

Mundi Color offers several hotel and self-catering holidays near by: a week in a rustic three-star hotel in the village of Bubion, an hour's drive from Granada, costs £446-£536 (excluding the course) for flights and B&B accommodation. The price includes car hire.

USING tea-house lodges opened by enterprising Nepalese on popular trekking routes, Himalayan Kingdoms (0171-923 7163) has introduced four Tea House Treks, supplying its own English-speaking guides and Sherpa cooks. The treks range from a 31-day Everest and Cho Oyu Expedition (£1,695) to a 21-day trek from Kaligandaki Gorge to Jomsom (£1,495) which follows mule train routes to Mustang, takes in the world's deepest gorge and offers close-ups of some of the Himalaya's highest peaks. Participants should be fit. Prices include flights, accommodation and most meals.

Travel articles in The Times since January 1998 are on our Internet site: 'most recent' links on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

■ CARIBBEAN ESCAPES (0171-581 3317) is offering 13 nights in Jamaica for the price of seven, departing on May 10. Room-only accommodation at Round Hill hotel or villas in Montego Bay costs £992 per person. Departing from Heathrow, transfers and taxes are also included.

■ THE Carol Cass Quintet, Christian Chrisil and Tommie Harris will all be taking part in MSC's (0171-637 2525) Jazz Cruise, departing on May 10. The seven-night cruise, calling at Palermo, Palma, Barcelona and Marseilles, has been reduced to £499 per person. The price includes a twin cabin, full board, entertainment, return flights from Stansted or Heathrow, and taxes.

■ PEOPLE in Miami claim it only has one season: summer. Fly there with Bon Voyage (0800-980 7089) for £293 per person, including tax, until May 31. Flights depart daily from Gatwick, stay must include a Saturday night.

■ VISIT the Turin Shroud, which is on display for the first time in 20 years. Cresta Holidays (0990 561814) is offering weekend breaks up to June 14. Three nights' B&B starts at £403 per person, including return flights from Heathrow, departing on Fridays. Transfers are not included. Entrance to the Shroud is free, but you must book a time and date beforehand: telephone 0800 967951.

■ IF YOU take your curry seriously, a Taste of Asia weekend in Leicester might be for you. From May 8-10, Leicester Promotions (0116-254 7400) is offering two nights



B&B at a choice of six hotels, two evening meals at award-winning restaurants, a shopping tour and a day's course at the Asian Cookery School, starting at £143 per person.

■ TRAVEL à la Carte (01635 201140) has reduced its prices to the tiny Greek island of Skiathos. One week's self-catering at the Maria Studios has been reduced from £299 to £249 per person, departing on Wednesday from Gatwick; Karavotsakima House has been reduced from £379 to £329 per person. Transfers and taxes are also included.

■ TRAVEL overland across East Africa: Kumuka's (0171-937 8855) Gorillas and Gameparks tour departs from Nairobi on May 15, and returns to Nairobi on June 11. Big game, forest treks and visits to endangered gorillas are included in the tour through Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda; white-water rafting is on offer for the fearless. The four-week, all-inclusive tour is £1,115 per person. Flights are not included, but can be arranged through Kumuka.

■ A SHORT break in Madrid starts at £159 per person with Time Off (0990 846363). Two nights' B&B at the Hotel Cliper with a complimentary drink and tapas, return flights from Heathrow daily, transfers and taxes are included.

JOANNA HUNTER

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Lowest available published fares for return travel

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London - Barcelona	from £115 Dabonair (ex-Luton)	from £154 Dabonair (ex-Luton)
London - Budapest	£189 BA (ex-Heathrow)	£642 BA (ex-Heathrow)
London - Copenhagen	£99 BA	£380 BA
London - Dublin	£70 BA (ex-Gatwick)	from £129 BA (ex-Gatwick)
London - Edinburgh	from £58 KLM uk (ex-Stansted/City)	from £188 KLM uk (ex-Stansted/City)
London - Hong Kong	£549 BA (ex-Heathrow)	£1,200 BA (ex-Heathrow)
London - Istanbul	£159 BA (ex-Heathrow)	£596 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London - New York	from £255 Virgin Atlantic (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	£844 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
Southampton - Zurich	£99 BA	£420 BA

British telephone numbers:
 British Airways (BA) 0345 222111
 Dabonair 0500 146200
 KLM uk 0993 074074
 Virgin Atlantic 01253 747245

*Lowest fares available. Other fares shown include tax.
 †Fares shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published fares which do not require Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow stopovers or stopovers without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the conditions of carriage, when booking.
 ‡Flexibility to see guarantee.

Airline delays still too long

CHARTER airlines are still not doing enough to prevent flight delays, despite recent improvements in average waiting times, according to the Air Transport Users Council (AUC). Tom Chesshyre writes. Latest figures from the Civil Aviation Authority show that more charter flights operated on time at British airports during October, November and December last year than they did during the same period in 1996. The most marked improvements were at Manchester Airport, where there was a 3 per cent increase in charter flights arriving on time, and at Gatwick, which had a 4 per cent rise - 59 per cent of flights returned within 15 minutes of their scheduled times at Manchester and 56 per cent at Gatwick. However, Philip Martin, director gen-

eral of the AUC, said that the overall length of delays is still too long - the average delay for charter flights in 1997 was 37 minutes. He said too few airlines have back-up planes to cover mechanical problems, and not enough airlines are making use of air

traffic control information to re-route flights to avoid congested areas. "There is an upward trend of flights being delayed for long periods despite recent improvements in air traffic control systems. We think airlines need to make an increased effort," Mr Martin said. Charter airlines have responded by claiming that better plans are being put in place to deal with delays this summer. A spokeswoman for Caledonian Airways said: "We have had a poor record over the past two years, but have made vast improvements this year, including the introduction of an extra back-up plane." A spokeswoman for Britannia Airlines, which had the best record in a delay table produced by the AUC last year, said: "We are constantly looking at ways to improve punctuality."

Waiting for the animals

Queues are the rule in Disney's new park. So get there early, says Simon Veness

BRITONS who hope to go to Disney's new Animal Kingdom in Florida, which opened ten days ago, will have to plan their visits carefully to avoid enormous queues. So many people were queuing outside the \$300 million, 500-acre Animal Kingdom on its first day that it was forced to open an hour early, at 6am - and the gates were closed just 73 minutes later, when the 25,000 capacity was reached. Bob Lamb, Animal Kingdom vice-president, said they were "giddy" at the reception. Queues had built up before dawn. The 6,000-vehicle car park was full by 7am, and the first family through the gates had started queuing at 9pm the previous evening. With upwards of half a million British visitors expected in central Florida this summer, those intending to visit the Animal Kingdom are strongly advised to adopt one of two strategies to avoid standing in queues for nearly two hours for the main attractions. Opening hour is 7am every day, but there is a degree of flexibility as crowds build up, and a 6.30am arrival is not too early. Alternatively, with the crowds tending to tail off in mid to late afternoon, a 3pm arrival should guarantee a modicum of queuing comfort, although that allows only five hours to take in the park's wide-ranging attractions. However, mid-afternoon, with temperatures hitting 90F, is also the worst time to try the Animal Kingdom's landmark ride, the Kilimanjaro Safari, as many of the animals seek shade. Early evening offers a better prospect of seeing them in this African savannah. The Kilimanjaro Safari came third in terms of visitor appeal among the three principal attractions. An early poll indicated a split for first between the dinosaur-infested thrill ride, Countdown to Extinction, and the eight-minute, 3-D film show, *It's Tough to Be a Bug!*, both of which exhibit Disney's "imagineering" skills at their highest.



The first holidaymakers swarm into the new 500-acre safari and fun park in Florida. A number of families commented on the more relaxed and eco-friendly nature of the park as a whole, in contrast to the more intense hustle and bustle of Orlando's other main attractions. After the death of 12 animals in the run-up to the park's launch, a two-week investigation by the American Department of Agriculture corroborated Disney's operating methods. The company also revealed a \$384 million profit on second-quarter revenue, with the theme parks contributing \$271 million. Total revenue was \$5.24 billion.

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Belinda Rhodes

Terrific for B

Where in shall we go

Your companies are encouraging us to book now for 1999, says Tom Chesshyre

A Place

TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

Belinda Rhodes was one of the few visitors allowed into the Tiger's Nest monastery, now destroyed by fire



The Prince of Wales painted a view of the monastery on his visit to Bhutan in February

'Terrible omen' for Bhutan

Fire has destroyed the monastery that was painted by the Prince of Wales during his visit to Bhutan three months ago. The 1,200-year-old temple of Taktsang, also known as the Tiger's Nest monastery and one of the most important Buddhist shrines in the Himalayan kingdom, burnt down two weeks ago. Even more upsetting, most of its ancient paintings and statues were destroyed.

The monastery is the seat of the country's spirituality, where Padma Sambhava, Bhutan's legendary founding saint, landed after flying from Tibet on a tigress's back to bring Buddhism to the country. Some Bhutanese believe the fire is a terrible omen for the nation's future.

British tour operators this week expressed sadness. A spokeswoman for Steppes East, which sends about 50 holidaymakers to Bhutan each year, said: "It is a terrible shame that Bhutan has lost such an important part of its heritage. We used to send visitors to view the monastery from across the valley — people were only rarely allowed to visit it. Fortunately, Bhutan has lots of other monasteries, so there is still plenty to see."

At this stage, nobody is sure exactly how the fire started at the temple, which is attached to a rock face that rises 3,000ft above the valley floor and is situated about 25 miles from Thimphu, Bhutan's capital. Some believe it was caused by lightning, while others say the probable cause

was an oil-lamp that got accidentally knocked over without anyone noticing.

King Jigme Singye Wangchuk has ordered the rebuilding of the monastery as soon as the search for relics among the debris has been completed. It will be built in traditional style and, as a marker of where the sacred cave lies, the Bhutanese will consider it as good as the old one.

I visited the temple a year before Prince Charles — who painted it from across the valley without actually going inside. I was extremely fortunate to be one of the few tourists ever to have been granted entry. Normally temples are closed to outsiders, partly to prevent damage and theft, but also to stop vendors gathering at the doors.

I found it a profoundly moving experience. I was shown statues of Buddha, Padma Sambhava and the tigress, ancient Buddhist shrines, the entrance to a sacred cave in which a monk is said to have meditated for three months; I was also given holy water. A silhouetted monk was perched precariously in a glassless window calmly humming mantras, unconcerned about the 700-metre drop below.

For visitors, one of the country's biggest attractions has gone for ever. Sadly for Bhutan's tiny tourist industry, monastery fires are accidents waiting to happen. All it takes is a yak-butter lamp overturned by the swish of a monk's robe — it is all too easy to imagine.



The 1,200-year-old temple of Taktsang, also known as the Tiger's Nest monastery, built into a rock face 3,000ft high

Poison spillage scare in Spain

TOUR operators are downplaying the risks to tourists in southwest Spain posed by the spillage of highly toxic mining waste into rivers around the Doñana National Park. Jeanette Hyde writes.

The Spanish Tourist Office is telling tourists that the region — which includes Cadiz, Seville, Huelva and the Costa de la Luz — is safe, despite consumer warnings that poisons could find their way into local produce. The tourist board said: "There is no need for visitors to worry. The government is monitoring the situation."

Yasmin Sethna, spokeswoman for the tour operator Magic of Spain, said: "The Foreign Office in London has not issued a warning but we are in close contact with them and our staff in the affected area in case anything changes." She said worried visitors should drink bottled water and avoid fruit and vegetables sold on the street.

The national park is known for its birdlife, but only a few overseas tourists visit it each year.

Dancing Princess

THIS week an unsubstantiated rumour on the Internet claimed that the glass disco, suspended off the stern of the new cruise ship Grand Princess, had fallen off. Jeannette Hyde writes. But Princess Cruises, the ship's owner, declares there are no problems and the superliner will make its maiden voyage on May 14 out of Southampton. Gwyn Hughes, managing director of Princess Cruises, said: "There is no problem at all. I can assure you the rumour is not true. We anticipate a prompt delivery and people are packing their bags to go." He expects passengers to be "wowed" by the disco.

Where in the world shall we go next year?

Tour companies are encouraging us to book now for 1999, says Tom Chesshyre

Summer 1999 may be a long way off, but Britain's leading package tour operators this week issued brochures for those who like to plan their holidays well in advance.

It is the earliest ever across-board brochure launch — last year a few operators published in early May — and discounts are on offer for those who book soon. Tour operators claim holidaymakers are willing to organise trips more than a year ahead in order to take advantage of early-booking incentives and also to ensure that they reserve the best accommodation.

First Choice has free holidays for children and savings of up to £180 per couple for next summer's trips booked before June 30 this year. It has also launched its first cruise programme, following in the footsteps of its main rivals, Thomson and Airtours.

"It is the first time we've produced all our brochures so early," said a spokeswoman. "We have some customers who are able to plan well in advance. The main reason people book so early is that they want particular accommodation in a specific week."



Bedtime reading for organised holidaymakers

and discounts of up to £60 on holidays booked before the end of May. Unjet has savings of £100 per couple and free places for children on short-haul holidays on bookings made before June 15.

British Airways Holidays announced this week that customers can book its 1999 Caribbean holidays at this year's prices, and offered £50 discounts on certain trips. These offers will stop when the new brochure comes out in the summer.

Surprisingly, Thomson, Britain's largest tour operator, is not offering any early-booking incentives. "But we've got some good year-round offers, like free child places for every family on our Skytours holidays," said a spokeswoman.

This week also saw Virgin Holidays launch its first programme of Mediterranean summer holidays for 1999.

Previously Virgin had concentrated on long-haul destinations such as America and the Far East. There are no special offers for early bookings, but free child places are available. At Thursday's launch, Richard Branson said: "Our aim is one day to be in the top three tour operators in Europe. Our reputation across the Atlantic is already strong."

Some travel agents are teaming up with operators to offer early-booking incentives. Going Places has up to 25 per cent off some holidays; Thomas Cook also has up to 25 per cent off.

A spokeswoman for the Association of British Travel Agents, which represents agents and tour operators, said: "All these deals are proof that selling trips early is popular with the public. People are much more organised these days when it comes to booking trips."

Hand over your money right now

Do you know where you want to go on holiday in August? No, not this August, next August? I haven't even sorted out this summer yet but, as Tom Chesshyre reports on this page, all the big holiday companies put their summer 1999 brochures on sale this week, so some people must know where they want to go next year.

I have to take my hat off to anyone who can plan so far in advance. Not only do they need to have the cash for a deposit, but they are deciding where to go next year before they have taken this year's holiday, the success or failure of which might influence their future choice of destination.

Obviously the operators are targeting families, who know the sort of thing they want,

who have to travel during the school holidays and who therefore, quite sensibly, book early to ensure they get their first choice of accommodation.

But what was wrong with everyone launching their brochures in September, as happened until a couple of years ago? It was the perfect time to catch us — just back from our summer break and, as autumn drew in, already dreaming about the next. But from the holiday companies' point of view, there is a serious flaw in this plan — they cannot get their hands on our cash half as early as they would like.

RICHARD Branson's decision to sell summer holidays in the Mediterranean is good news. Virgin's innovative service on its airline shook up the competition on long-haul flights —

TRIP WIRES by Cath Urquhart TRAVEL EDITOR

let's see if it can do the same for the package holiday. Who knows, it might not be long before the directors of Thomson, Airtours and the rest start

sporting dodgy jumpers and launching a range of ballooning holidays.

BUTLIN'S did the right thing this week and knocked down some of its grottiest chalets, while also opening two new holiday villages at its Skegness centre. The company is spending £139 million on improving accommodation at Minehead, Bognor Regis and Skegness — and not before time. A couple of years ago, I went to Bognor Regis Butlin's with a group of friends for a themed Seventies weekend. The concept worked brilliantly: our chalet had clearly not been cleaned since 1976 and the carpet squeaked with years of accumulated grunge. Butlin's has had a bad press recently over allegations of drink and drugs excesses on

site. Frankly, I am not surprised. We had to knock back half a bottle of Jack Daniel's each to steel ourselves to sleep in the surroundings.

I HAILED a black cab the other night and found myself in the new model now hitting London's streets, the TXI, whose retro styling gives it a rather cheeky look. By my seat I found a panel of controls for the passenger that would put Concorde to shame.

One new feature is an intercom switch which means you can start or cease communication with the driver. Mine started to moan about roadworks, so I hit the buttons. It was too good to be true. Realising he was losing his audience, he simply pulled open the glass partition — and carried on talking.

TRAVELLER'S TIP



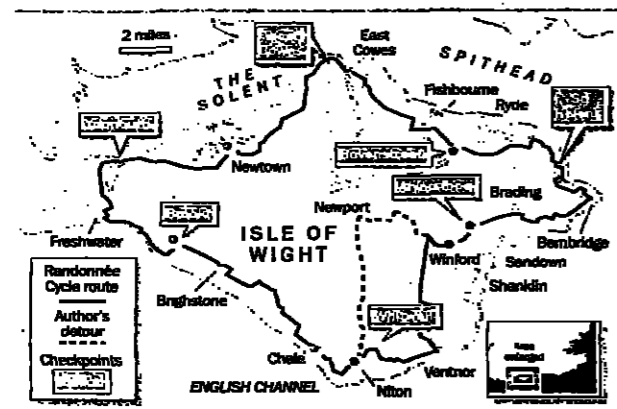
AS so many suitcases look similar, to help identify your own bag on the luggage carousel, fix strips of coloured self-adhesive tape to it. Fixing travel labels or other stickers on the case will also help it to stand out. — Tom Brandon, Dunstable

Send your suggestion, in no more than 75 words, on a postcard to: Traveller's Tip, The Times Travel Desk, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, with your name and address and daytime telephone number. If yours is published, you will win a Lonely Planet guidebook and phrasebook.

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A Place with a Magic all its Own' commented Sir Peter Ustinov, describing his trip along the Irrawaddy River on the Road To Mandalay. See the country as never before aboard The Road To Mandalay river cruise. To discover more about this remarkable journey through the land that time forgot, call Orient-Express Trains & Cruises on 0171 805 5100 (weekdays only) or our brochure line 0870 607 6077 (anytime).

An island route to test the fittest



Tomorrow, cyclists tour the Isle of Wight. Nicholas Roe, still saddle sore, warns them what to expect

RIGHT, let's review the things that went wrong. I got lost. I got rained on. I lost something (the map). And my bum hurts. Taking all these things into consideration, what exactly was the point of trying to cycle round the Isle of Wight in a day?

Chugging over on the ferry from Portsmouth under a sunny sky, yachts scattering in front of us, it seemed a great, almost natural thing to do.

That, presumably, is why a thousand or more cyclists will whizz off on the same journey at 9am tomorrow, when the annual "Bicycle Island Randonnée" sees them pedalling round the 65 miles of coastal lanes. There will be kids, pot-bellied dads, even grannies on one-speed Raleighs.

You can do it too, if you like. Just turn up at any of the seven checkpoints — at Alverstoke, Whitwell, Brook, Yarmouth, West Cowes, Havenstreet and St Helens — pick up a free map and off you go. At the journey's end, you can fork out £1.80 for a commemorative badge if you want. But why do it at all?

The first part of the answer came as I unbuckled my bike from the back of the car in a lay-by near the ferry port at Fishbourne. The island seemed big but manageable at this point, quite pleasantly daunting. With my wife and children looking on, I felt, unusually, heroic. Tucking my trousers into my socks, I mounted up and cycled off.

The great thing about starting the round-island route at Fishbourne is that, although



Cyclists of all ages go to the Isle of Wight to view the spectacular scenery and pit themselves against the rugged terrain in the 65-mile Island Randonnée, held tomorrow

you begin on the noisy main road, you have an opening downhill run, which was fantastic. Sure, I soon discovered that there are many hills on the Isle of Wight: in fact, experienced cyclists say the Randonnée is harder than the London to Brighton bike ride. But starting off in the north, you don't notice that at first.

Partly it's because the hills are gentler here, but also, during the opening few miles, I was too absorbed by the "wow" factor to care. Biking makes you part of the landscape and, on the Isle of Wight, it swiftly became clear that that is a good thing.

This diamond-shaped island is made up of two distinct parts here-and-now is apparent in

the east and south, around Ryde, Sandown and Ventnor, where trippers munch candyfloss and bury grandad in the sand. But my route would skirt those areas, and in any case I was going anticlockwise (the round-island route is signposted both ways) which meant heading in the opposite direction — towards the past.

I noticed it as soon as I hit the first of the tranquil lanes that were to typify most of the journey. Here was the kind of countryside that Hardy wrote about: primroses, bluebells, buttercups and may; high verges; small and hedge-rimmed fields. Of course, all this was interrupted by the occasional outbreak of hedges (almost always decorated with garden gnomes), but that only added to the sense of yesterday.



Cyclists on a rural stretch of the island circuit

Then the rain began to fall. It rushed in from the southeast in blustering gusts which coincided with the arrival of some terrible hills, a combination which made me keep my head down and whisper, "I won't look up for another hundred pedal strokes..."

Glances right at towering cliffs and deserted, washed beaches, and to the left, at rolling open countryside, were brief and timid. Eventually, of course, I lost my way.

I happened not long after I had turned inland between high hedgerows to parallel the coast higher up, trawling through steep but pleasant villages like Brighton. Here, I ate lunch in a rain-spattered, urine-smelling bus-shelter sitting in a bungalow over the road, who probably thought I was a job. I was tired and wet.

Then came Chale and Niton... and somewhere around this point I missed a sign and wandered off route. I should have headed along the coast to Ventnor. Instead, I wobbled foolishly north.

Miles later, when I finally began to notice my direction as well as my surroundings, I was way off route, somewhere

near Newport in the very centre of the island. By this time, I had been riding for five hours. I had gained a sense of heroism: some downhill elation; an enthusiasm for the varying countryside; and awe — for instance, at the tiny hamlet of Newtown where the sense of rural isolation was almost total; or at Freshwater where the sudden arrival of the sea was so bright that it hit you in the eye.

But now I was weary. I hauled myself east again to

pick up the trail near Winford, where there was a sign. And on I went. It rained. The countryside became cooler, more intimate, like Sussex lanes. I was high above the coast but gradually falling east. Down, in hedge-walled silences, through Brading, along the harbour at Bembridge with its flower-decked houseboats, skirting the sweet, attractive irrelevance (as it now seemed) of Seaview.

And finally, west again, and vaguely north, along wooded,

hilly lanes back to Fishbourne where it had all begun seven long, desperate hours ago. My family said, "Goodness, we thought you'd never make it."

On the boat going back I decided that it had all been a tremendous adventure and it was partly because of the good things at the beginning, but also the bad things — the wet, the wind, the sore bum. On reflection, though, it was more the fact that girding an island makes a possession of it. And the Isle of Wight, for all its hills, seemed worth owning.

ISLE OF WIGHT FACT FILE

- Getting there: Nicholas Roe travelled by Wightlink Ferries (0990 827744) from Portsmouth to Fishbourne. A day trip for car, driver and up to three passengers costs £36.40 return (£36.90 between July 17-August 29), or £33.70 (£36.60) if staying up to four nights. Passengers only, £7.90. Wightlink runs car ferries from Lymington to Yarmouth (same prices); and passenger-only services from Portsmouth to Ryde, day return £6.75, period return £9.90.
- The Randonnée: Check in at Alverstoke, Whitwell, Brook, Yarmouth, West Cowes, Havenstreet or St Helens, from 9am. The route is clockwise.
- Bike hire: Isle Cycle Hire, c/o Wavell's Fine Foods, The Square, Yarmouth (01983 760219), £10 per day, £6 half day. Offshore Sports, 2-4 Birmingham Road, Cowes (01983 290514), also 19 Orchardleigh Road, Shanklin (01983 866269), £9 per day, £5 half day.
- Accommodation: B&B, Little Orchard, Undercliff Drive, St. Lawrence (01983 731106), £18.50 pp. Seaview Hotel, High Street, Seaview (01983 612711); singles from £55; doubles from £85.
- Further information: Isle of Wight Tourism: 01983 813800. Route leaflets are available from Shanklin Tourist Information Centre, 67 High Street, Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 6SD.

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- At sea
- Suez, Egypt for Cairo & Pyramids
- Transit Suez Canal
- Ashdod, Israel for Jerusalem & Bethlehem
- At sea ● Kusadasi, Turkey for Ephesus
- Athens, Greece for City tour & Acropolis and return flight to UK

The above gives just a brief outline. In most parts of call there is a choice of excursions available.

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We inadvertently published the answers to the Easter Monday Jumbo 160 on April 25 but for readers looking for the solution today we reprint them above. The winner is Mrs N. Trimmings, of Horsham, West Sussex.

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Discover the M25 for walkers

Adam Hopkins takes a path round London and encounters a man with circular vision

Although a keen walker and living on the southern fringe of London, I had heard nothing about the London Loop. Then, while out walking last autumn, I met a man with a beard and a map in a grassy field. Alec Baxter-Brown, I discovered, had done more than anybody to open the first section of this walkway around London.

Town and country are not always the best of neighbours. Thank heavens, then, for the London Loop, an amicable meeting place for the frequently fractious partners.

In the past two years, the first sections of what will eventually be a 150-mile walk around the capital have quietly come into being. Two more sections open this month, another in June and probably one more in the autumn.

By Christmas, considerable stretches will connect the north and south of London. The ring should be complete within seven years, providing London with what is thought to be the first walking route round any major city in the world.

There is good path underfoot — well, mostly — easy-to-follow signs and handy leaflets to show where you are going, and either a railway station or the Underground (and if neither of these, then at least the bus) to set you down and pick you up again at the completion of each stretch. And all of this at the very point where urban sprawl gives way to urban fringe and the Green Belt, making it a kind of M25 for walkers.

Brisk, clear weather earlier this year found me out on the Downs, again with Alec, methodically walking that first sector — from Hamsey Green, near Westerham, with a bus stop at the pond (restored by Alec and his volunteers), and out over Riddlesdown and up through Kenley Common, and so to Coulsdon Common and down into Happy Valley, where the yellow rattle blossoms and the sewers smell, and finally along the gentle slopes of Farthing Down to the railway station at Coulsdon South.

It was six dawdling miles of open upland and deep valley with winter woods, a wartime airfield now occupied by gliders, and a little white observatory.

We walked past great wide hedgerows — essential features of the Green Belt — and past the factory where the goods for the Ann Summers sex shops are produced. There were suburban interludes, a gasholder, a lime pit quarried from the hill, then Jacob sheep with curly horns, engaged in "conservation grazing" — set out to graze, that is, in imitation of old country patterns, tending to keep down the coarser grass and let the lighter, slier chard grasses through, together with a surprising quantity of orchids.

All in all, it was a most satisfactory walk.

Alec, son of the one-time superintendent of Richmond Park and committed to country values, heads a body called the Downlands Project, one of those countryside management groups that began to flourish on big city fringes in the Seventies.

Since it is the local authorities — London's city boroughs and county councils such as Kent, Surrey and Essex — that will pay the lion's share for the



Those boots are made for walking the London Loop, a 150-mile pathway around the capital that should be complete in seven years

Loop, their full participation is the key to it all. And getting these bodies to play an active role in the scheme is something that "countryside management services" are rather good at.

"You see," Alec explained, as we ambled along, "there had been a great deal of talk but nothing had happened. I knew that we had good countryside down here and that this section could actually be done. So I said to our partners, especially Croydon council, let's go for it. Once you have got one bit in, you have got some momentum going."

Croydon played its part and Alec's pathway linked together open spaces belonging to the borough and a good many, too, belonging to the City of London.

On May 3, 1996, section five of the Loop came into existence. Sections three and four, from Bromley to Hamsey Green, are now in being. Section six, from Coulsdon through to Banstead, will open on June 20, with section seven, by the Lower Mole Project, opening a little later.

So far so good. But if you ask where the first impulse for the London Loop came from, the answer is that it was probably from Barnet, in North London.

In 1989, another countryside project worker, Simon Walsh, was asked by Barnet council to devise a set of pathways linking the east and west side

LONDON'S OUTER ORBITAL WALKS

Sections already open, or due to open soon	7 Late 1998	Banstead/West Ewell
3 Open	Pettit Wood/Hayes	Elstree/Cockfosters
4 Open	Hayes/Hamsey Green	16 Open
5 Open	Hamsey Green/Coulsdon	17 May 17
6 June 20	Coulsdon/Banstead	18 May 27
		Enfield Lock/Chingford

of the borough. He started to link up open spaces on the map, then went on and devised a whole loop around northern London.

Within three years a body called the London Walking Forum had come into existence, bringing together local authorities and the Countryside Commission, the Ramblers Association and other groups with a serious interest in making things happen for the benefit of walkers. Now Simon is working for the Forum.

I persuaded him to walk me round section 18, from Enfield Lock to Chingford in the North, which opens to the public on May 17. Section 17, from Cockfosters to Enfield,

opens the same day, linking into section 16, from Elstree to Barnet.

Nothing could have been more different from my day with Alec. We set out along an urban stream with litter and discarded bike wheels, and so into an intricate terrain of old canals, with longboats, patient anglers and the now defunct Royal Ordnance factory which gave its name to the Enfield rifle. The reeds and sedge and housing developments of the Lee Valley soon gave way to the gentle ripple of the Sewardstone Hills, with views of Waltham Abbey and the expanses of the George V

reservoir. We pushed past large, white, continental cattle and riding stables in abundance into the edges of Epping Forest.

At last, with me feeling well satisfied, we arrived at Chingford Station. It had been a mixed experience of scrappy city edge and unexpected rurality.

"That is the spirit of the path," Simon said.

Both he and Alec believe that walking is good for you and building paths is a great deal cheaper than building leisure centres. In fact, if you want to discover good, old-fashioned public spirit, as well as the terrain around the city's edge, then the London Loop is a fine place to begin.

LONDON LOOP FACT FILE

- Loop section 17 (Cockfosters to Enfield Lock) and section 18 (Enfield Lock to Chingford) are to be launched together at an event held at Fory Hall, Enfield, on Sunday May 17. Walks will converge from various parts of the route with a civic ceremony around 1pm. Details from Peter Downes (0181-449 2459).
- Section 6 (Coulsdon to Banstead) will be launched at noon on Saturday, June 20, at Onks Park, Sutton, after walks commencing at Coulsdon South railway station at about 11am. Details can be obtained from Alec Baxter-Brown (0181-541 7282).
- For information on the London Walking Forum, write c/o City Secretary's Department, Corporation of London, P.O. Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ. Tel: 0171-233 9714, or e-mail: Simon@londonwalking.com
- For specific Loop leaflets contact the following: Loop Section 3 (Unibike Country Park, Pettit Wood, to West Wickham, Hayes); London Borough of Bromley (01899 862815); Loop sections 4 and 5 (West Wickham Common through to Coulsdon South via Hamsey Green); Downlands Countryside Management Project (0181-541 7282); Loop section 16 (Elstree to Cockfosters); London Borough of Barnet (0181-359 3052); Loop section 17 (Cockfosters to Enfield Lock) and 18 (Enfield Lock to Chingford); Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (01992 717711).
- Walkers may be interested in a new book, *Country Walks Around London*, by Geoff Garvey & Leigh Haas (Mainstream Publishing, £7.99), published on May 11.

Gareth Huw Davies follows a new walkers' route in Wiltshire

The Downs tell their tale in chalk

Talismanic blue arrows fixed to gates beckoned us up Thieves Way, the Saxon route to Sugar Hill. We were on the Marlborough Downs, following a newly-defined Countryside Commission 12-mile circular path — five miles if you take the short option.

The Downs offer a minimalist cartography: brief details scattered on a broad canvas. A lonely group of beech trees mark some Iron Age grandee's grave; a strand of fence aslant a steep slope, notched by the dry beds of primeval streams and thinly peppered with sheep's tracks, chalk-white across the green of new wheat and the dun of old stubble.

Away to the North, the M4 roared. With each step, the tree canopy gradually drew across like a curtain and the din faded to dull grumble. Ancient details came into view, such as a neat row of four identical grassy knolls and a phalanx of beech trees cresting the hill. Alongside our track was a Scots pine — a traditional sign of hospitality for the drovers in a farm below.

We found our welcome in the village of Aldbourne, a mid-walk stop. We sat around the fire in the Crown pub, examining the racehorse photographs on the walls and the village pond outside.

All good film location directors have Aldbourne's number. The cottages are built with whatever came to the mason's hand, including ancient sarsen stones from the Downs. I noticed an antique AA sign from the days when the odd fraction mattered to precise drivers: Safety First. Chilton Foliate 5½ miles, London 71¼.

Out of Aldbourne we walked along half a mile of main road, then back onto the Downs by the route used by John de Gaunt and his son, the future Henry IV, to their hunting lodge. A skein of partridges on whirring wings hurled a barbed wire fence ribboned with sheep's wool. We reached the top, domi-

nated by the Elizabethan manor house of Upper Upham in cool grey stone, with its two closely-clipped yew hedges reaching out in apparent welcome. Then the path swung left and plunged into a little valley that is brimful with history.

At this stile the Parliamentarians, fresh from lifting the siege of Gloucester, were ambushed by Prince Rupert's valiant, under-resourced Royalists. At that turning some moss-encrusted stones marked the village of Snap, killed off by free trade. The



The path can swing into valleys brimful of history

miserable harvest raised on these poor slopes could not compete with American grain. By 1805 the villagers had all moved out.

We took a sharp right and briefly joined the Wiltshire to Buckinghamshire Ridgeway. To the West, the flatlands of Wiltshire ran away to the Bristol Channel. Ahead was the 2,000-year-old hillfort Liddington Castle, and in the faltering light the M4 meandered away to the Severn, a two-tone torrent of red and white lights.

To obtain a Countryside Commission/Wiltshire County Council leaflet entitled *The Aldbourne Circular Route*, call 01865 810224.

Two rooms are available on a B&B basis at the Crown pub in Aldbourne (E28 single, £40 double); telephone 01672 540214.

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Life on the kibbutz is no picnic

Michele Martin finds that after 50 years, Israel still welcomes volunteer workers

When I first became a kibbutz volunteer in 1984, I found myself in what can best be described as a Club 18-30 holiday for backpackers...



Farm work, such as picking fruit, is now a rarity

In such a climate, working hours have lengthened and conditions have become less comfortable. Perhaps not surprisingly, the number of British volunteers has fallen by about a third in the past decade.

But for those who go, the kibbutz experience remains as much fun as ever, if a little less like a holiday camp. For around £250 to £350, Project 67 or Kibbutz Representatives will organise your flight, transfers and three-month visas to work anywhere in Israel...



Israeli kibbutznik handling a machinegun and working the land on a tractor on a kibbutz in the Negev in 1955. The collective settlements are unique to Israel

I found myself on a pig farm near Beersheva. You find yourself living with all these other volunteers for 24 hours a day. It could be a complete nightmare, but it isn't and you forge very good relationships. I'd tell anyone to go and do it. It's fun...

The communities leeway to take on people to do their menial jobs, with most housing 80 to 100 at their peak. All that stopped when the Government no longer saw the kibbutzim as the ideological heart of a changing state and cut their funding...

Despite their changing status, many basics of kibbutz life for a volunteer remain the same. Most still live in shared accommodation with one or two others and receive enough pocket money to live on, in return for doing community work such as laundry, cooking or - less often - farming...

about partying, as long as younger kibbutzniks can join in and volunteers turn up for work the next morning. What volunteers do not get any more is an easy ride. They are expected to do a 48-hour working week - or 36 hours of toil and 12 studying Hebrew if they choose to do a Working Hebrew programme...

As the state's 50th anniversary comes and goes, it would be nice to think that some people will still choose to experience Israel from a volunteer's perspective. In a country most usually viewed through the extreme images of the news, they remain an accessible place for cultural exchange. And yes, I would go back again - if I wasn't so old.

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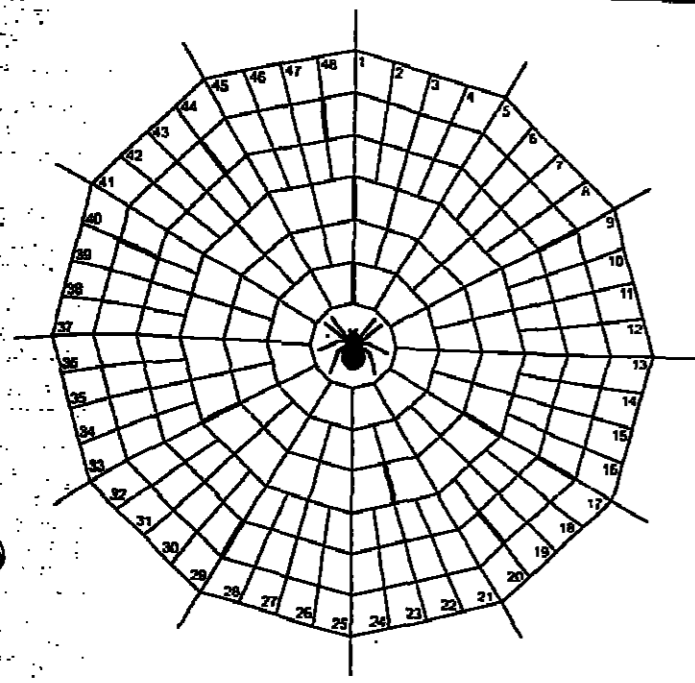
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ARACHNE has found a congenial environment. The third row from the centre contains some necessities (one an abbreviation) which, however, may not be very helpful in finding the seven unclued things in the fifth row from the centre of the web.

In each segment of the web two normal answers yielded by normal clues run either forward or backward from the edge. Overall, 12 answers are to be entered each way. The other two answers in each segment must be jumbled before entry. Their clues each contain a superfluous word whose first letter is to be entered in the outermost row of the web.

- 1 Press vulgar woman to give us fish (hyphenated)
2 Dropping noodle in bed's damaged paw
3 Bird encased eggs in auto wheel
4 Debauched tribe, we hear
5 Rhyme about celluloid hero
6 Herb I investigate, for mineral with dual structure
7 Florence, it's rumoured, has them examining plant structure
8 Speed taken up by young musicians for Messalina perhaps
9 Half a buck handed over, in part, for Russian bread
10 Difficult time, with no aspirations and deadened enthusiasm
11 Journeyed back taking Italian cutter (amongst other things)
12 Oyster disturbed sea floor
13 Enemy buries leaders of fallen infantry battalion lynched for weakness
14 Beef extract made from odd bits of loin and final slice of topside (very important!)
15 Leggy call-girls - every one of them legging it in the countryside
16 Hand divine ale out and paint Edinburgh red
17 Cook found no end of apple sauce
18 Ex-candidate in US has title - and a billion for good measure
19 Bushy bridled wife camouflages mule
20 Wife has exceptionally good spanner
21 Current lukewarm for wader
22 Genial chap lives with male rather than female
23 Nan Archer is British lady in a mess
24 Staggering commoner from SW19, we hear
25 A substance identical to but different from iridium has remarkable nucleus
26 Relative comes over to take tea in small restaurant
27 Person withholding small Roman coin
28 Truly esoteric legal document
29 Sex education gets naive daughter flustered
30 China Society member
31 In the north the judge accepts Mishnah firstly, and Gemara finally, to constitute the law
32 Dumplings are obscure mixture: half suet and a dash of mace (2 words)
33 Strive to make a point
34 After skiving two lessons one gets quiet smack
35 Plump maid accommodates yours truly!
36 Before long sobersides find us mischievously inclined
37 Auntie saying bed is where Sawyer should be
38 Humiliate humorist in front of lady
39 German is in the way in boat
40 Neighbours complain when I start to get boisterous
41 Asian runs goldfield for commission
42 Stop speeding, arriving ahead of time in NY
43 Rejet kind offer
44 People in the present day taking Ecstasy get a fine
45 Poetic chap, inhabitant of NW France
46 Suspicion about article in tub
47 Malicious young woman, not ever pleasant
48 Take a second piece, rector! Go on!

Solution and notes for No. 3457. Locating Omissions by Adam. Clue answers: 1. precipitately 2. proovesiveness 3. obmasciate 4. cleavage 5. adjuvant 6. stutched 7. Siphonolite 8. irrigate 9. expectorate 10. retroreflector 11. echelons 12. police officer 13. (ajrup 14. ripeck) 15. copy 16. blujes 17. lipule 18. karpie 19. sentience 20. intiners 21. pififino 22. scardragon 23. speeling 24. promotes 25. reigrator 26. (threepart 27. affriah 28. ashiore 29. arake 30. gasmas 31. softile 32. mterine 33. (ie- ins) 34. armitos 35. entomogize 36. weightlessness. The winner is: N.D. Stein, London SW16. Runners-up: C.R. Haigh, Hassocks, West Sussex; Brenda J. Widger, Altrincham, Cheshire; Miss L. Paterson, Fordingbridge, Hampshire; H. Brown, Nottingham; R.J. Hill, Halesowen, West Midlands.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

BOB HAMMAN has been number one in the world rankings for many years. He gives this hand from the 1992 Olympiad in his excellent book At the Table, to illustrate an important part of bridge thinking.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North and South. North: ♠A92, ♥1083, ♦107, ♣A1097. South: ♠J743, ♥A84, ♦K8, ♣KJ8. Trick sequence: ♠10865, ♥K9, ♦J42, ♣Q643. ♠K, ♥QJ752, ♦A853, ♣52.

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ten of diamonds.

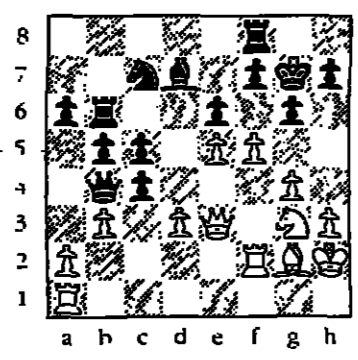
In the auction North showed a balanced hand in the 12-14 point range, with three card heart support. All the defence knew about the South hand was that he had at least five hearts and game values - he had not shown his diamond suit. Declarer won the diamond lead in dummy and rather than play trumps and try to guess the clubs later, led a spade, hoping to score his singleton king. Hamman won and played another diamond. Now declarer was in danger of losing control if he won in dummy and played ace and another heart, so he won in hand and advanced the jack of hearts. East (Bobby Wolf) won that and eventually returned a third diamond, West ruffed and cashed the ace of clubs. Even if East had returned a spade West can still bear the contract. Declarer has to ruff, leaving this position:

WORD ANSWERS. Answers from page 36. VIVERRID (a) Belonging or pertaining to the family Viverridae, which comprises civets, genets and mongooses, also a viverrid animal. From the Latin viverra a ferret. (b) A constriction in a pipe, more sharply tapered than in. The pressure in a fluid is lower in the constriction (law of hydrodynamics) than in the pipe itself. This difference can be used to calculate the rate of flow of the fluid. The lower pressure can also be used to provide gentle suction, as is applied in laboratory filters. BOSTHUON (c) From the Irish bastán, a whip made of green rods, a soft or spiritless fellow. James Joyce, Dubliners, 1914. 'Is this what we pay rates for? To feed and clothe these ignorant bastards?'

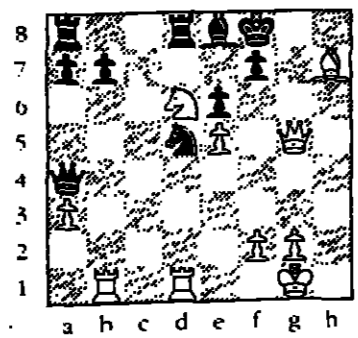
CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE RAC's chess club has always enjoyed a fine record in the championship for London clubs and this year it has emerged at the top yet again, though it has had to share the laurels with the Athenaeum. It is good news that the London clubs are gradually attracting formidable players to their ranks. Grandmaster Michael Stearn now represents the RAC, while Shaun Taulbut, an international master and former European junior champion, has joined Peter Lee, the 1965 British champion, at the Athenaeum. This week's game, which includes one or two notes contributed by the winner, was a victory for Arthur Freeman, the American expert, who scored 7/8 in the championship. White: Arthur Freeman (Athenaeum) Black: Simon Carey (Brook's) London Clubs Championship 1998. English Opening. 1-c4 Nf6 2-Nc3 g6 3-g3 Bg7 4-Bg2 0-0 5-c4. This central clamp in the English Opening was favoured by both Nimzowitsch and Botvinnik. 5...d6 6-Nge2 c5 7-O-O Nc6 8-d3 Bg4. The problem with Black's position is that there is not much to do. A queenside break is indicated, but this is very slow. The best procedure for Black is to play 8...Ne8 planning ...Ne7 and ...Ne6. That way, Black maintains the option of a queenside advance based on ...b5 (as in the game) while also keeping in reserve the resource of ...f5, blocking White's expansion on the kingside. Just how useful this precaution would be is demonstrated by the further course of the game. 9-h3 Bd7 10-Be3 Rb8 11-Qd2 e6 12-Bh6 b5 13-Bug7 Kc7 14-f4 e5 15-b3 Qb6 16-Kh2 Qe5 17-Qe3 Nd4 18-e5 Ne8 19-Nd4 Qxc3 20-Ne2 Qb4. White's threat was exd6 and Qxc5. 21-g4 Rb6 22-Rf2 Ne7 23-Qc2 Bc6 23-Bxc6 and f5 is deadly. 23-Ng3 d6 24-f5 dxc4.



25-Nh5+ ggh5 26-f6+ Kh8 27-Qh6 Rg8 28-Be4 Rg6 29-Bxc6 Black resigns. It is always encouraging to outdo a grandmaster, particularly a top Russian. The following position, with White to play, is from the game Balashov v Jandemirov, Moscow 1998, and was published as a Winning Move on Friday March 20. The white queen, knight and bishop are all circling around the black king while Black's defensive forces are far away. It is therefore not surprising that White scored a quick win.



The solution as played was 1-Rxd5! exd5 2-Qh6+ Ke7 3-Nf5+ Kd7 4-Qd6+ Kc8 5-Ne7 checkmate. My thanks to these readers: Mr T. Neilson of Lancashire, Rob Colston of Buckinghamshire, Zaki Khorasane of Wimbledon, Bruce Thomas of Kent, John Heaton of Surrey, Greg Tebble of Norfolk and others who all pointed out that the Russian grandmaster missed a more incisive continuation on his second move. After 1-Rxd5! exd5, White has a swifter finish with 2-Nf5, when mate is inevitable.

WINNING MOVES

Chessboard diagram and text for winning moves. 'The black rooks, occupying the only two open files on the board, are much more active than their White counterparts. How did Black now make the most of this? The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers on a postcard, please, addressed to Winning Move competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The answer will be published next Saturday. Solution to last week's competition: 1...Ne3+. The winner is Xavier Bourachot of Southampton, Hampshire.'

COMPUTER GAMES AND SOFTWARE

by Tim Wapshott

Article about computer games and software. 'DON'T do it HAL. Boyo, until I hear the score between France and Wales... OK, now do it.' Inspired by France's convincing rugby victory recently, this entry, though short, from John Macritchie in Kerriemuir, Edinburgh, is a winner in Cyberspace Forty-Two. Drawing the largest postbag yet for one of our competitions, your pleadings to HAL the heartless computer not to turn off your life-support system ranged from the obscure to the downright dumb. 'Don't do it HAL,' wrote one reader, 'or I pull the plug.' If only disarming HAL were that easy. Our second winner is Richard Swan from Ashford, Kent, with: 'Don't do it, HAL. Let's go back to Earth.' 'Why, Dave?' 'I thought desperately, then answered: 'I could introduce you to the Spice Girls. HAL, you remember, they came to the launch party and you fell in love with them all?' 'Dave, they haven't had a hit for two years.' 'But I know you're still obsessed, HAL,' I replied. 'It's the final proof that you make mistakes. Let's go home.'



Some unsuitable Lara Croft impersonators suggested by readers. HAL hesitated, only for a millionth of a second, but he hesitated. 'Then there's some unfinished business,' I added. 'What?' HAL asked. 'That political scandal - Logigate. You made the White House computer release details of the President's little indiscretions. She didn't like that.'

NEW SOFTWARE

ALTHOUGH Black Dahlia comes on eight CD-Roms, its problems are quality not quantity. This is Take Two's latest attempt at the interactive movie genre and while the title stars Dennis Hopper and Teri Garr and clearly has high production values, the gameplay value seems disappointingly low. The FMV (Full Motion Video) Sequences are nicely made but plod along all the same. Rather than immersing you with the thrill of the chase sniffing clues and red herrings in a glorified whodunnit, too much of the game is merely a spectator sport. Cleveland in 1941 is in the clutches of a serial killer. He is dubbed the Torso Murderer, which begs Joe Orton's line: 'Who'd want to murder a torso?' An occult mystery unfolds which, as the government agency new boy, you must solve. As well as interviewing those you meet, there is a liberal scattering of clues and hotspots to find, plus some fairly mundane puzzles to complete. This is a brave stab at trying to make the interactive movie idea work. Sadly, it is merely further proof that passive gaming techniques feel très passés. Verdict: 6 out of 10. Swanky yet ultimately unfulfilling interactive movie experience £39.99. GSP's Kids Multimedia Encyclopedia is an enchanting reference title that encourages children to explore at their own pace with a host of novelties to keep them amused. The international 'make-a-face' game, for example, is delightfully funny and will fill any room with giggles. The menu interface is bright and uncluttered, with large icons beg-

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 161

Jumbo crossword solution grid. IMPUGN GRASSWIDOW MAPLELEAF. FHTIAEMAITIAOMLLO. FLIVVER AVAIL SHERRYCOBBLER. YLECDRLO NCKAIT. TAKE THE BIT BETWEEN ONE STEETH. MNAEAYNRNTTB. UNDERSHOT LIES IN WAIT CLOSER. LET A WE NU QEOI. TURBOSUPERCHARGER JAUNDICED. IELECSAIG. MERIT MENISCI WATERING PLACE. EOTIDOU DRL. DOOMWATCH NEUROPHYSIOLOGIST. IDLREULDEANGSI. ABOMINABLESNOWMAN LOGARITHM. UNDIUONEAB. HARLEQUINADES UNARMED MITRE. ILC EO SARHR. GREATNESS WOODENHORSE OF TROY. HSADNVATAEOA. PESTLE TIETHEKNOT INDICATOR. IKWNR RAC C UT D. THE GAME IS NOT WORTH THE CANDLE. CRTI IDOWLOAD IH. HUNTING SPIDER HOICK SCIENCE. EEVHI EKANEETGL. DISSENTED NOSOLOGIST GYPSUM.

The winner of five Oxford University Press reference books, worth more than £100, is Bill Taylor of Faversham, Kent.

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q Having decided to get married after living together for several years, and having accumulated all the trappings — toaster, kettle, teapots etc — would it be bad manners to invite monetary donations instead of gifts, and how would one politely suggest it in the invitation cards? — Jim Ignatowski, Mansfield, Notts.

When I invite him to lunch, he insists on bringing his partner too. His partner is a great bore, and his loud and egotistical interventions prevent me from having a proper conversation with my friend. How can I most tactfully convey to my friend that his partner is no more welcome than would be in similar circumstances.

Q I have introduced a close woman friend to other close friends and relatives. Afterwards she nearly always wants their addresses and phone numbers from me — but never uses them. Rightly, several friends said I should have asked them first, although the information was always given in good faith — to thank them for a lovely day etc. My friend never asks me to join in with people with whom she is friendly, although it is clear she would like to become friends with my friends, independently of me. I think that this is all very bad manners. What should my correct course of action, or inaction be? — Katie, Peterborough



Blatantly excluding this frightful visitor will hurt your friend's feelings and defy convention as well. Instead, cunningly find out when his partner is going to be away, such as when visiting his relations or going on business trips. As the time approaches, ring your friend and say casually: "How's Hector?" When he tells you of his lover's imminent departure, say with as much spontaneity as you can muster: "Oh, you must come round, we can't have you festering on your own. How about lunch next Friday?"

Q Last year some friends held a cocktail party (which turned out to be an excuse to drink rather than a large amount along with the occasional side of the occasional)

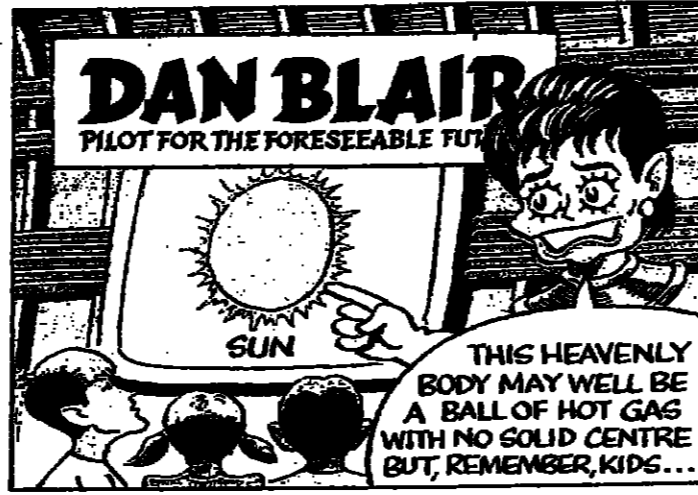
You are quite right to feel disgruntled. Friendship is deeply territorial and governed by unspoken protocols. However, time after time, insensitive and pushy people try to take over new acquaintances that they have met through a friend, while often excluding the very person that made the introduction in the first place. The woman you describe is a prime and, judging by your other friends' reactions, singularly unsuccessful example of the type. To avoid these complications, restrict yourself to seeing this social liability on a one-to-one basis. Indeed, you may well find yourself tempted to cease seeing her at all.

You will thus be able to enjoy your friend's unadulterated companionship, and he may well so enjoy coming out on his own that he will be happy to repeat the experience.

Q What is the correct pronunciation in England when referring to a manservant as valet? Is it va-lette or va-let? — B.A.W., West London.

Q I recall in an officers' mess soon after the war eating pieces of cheese off the tip of one's knife. Would you kindly confirm whether this is still acceptable in polite society? — John H. Hobson, Bournemouth, Dorset.

Q I have an old friend who is a homosexual (I am not).



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard
VIVERRID
a. A ferret
b. A disease which poisons plants
c. A type of fish hook

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene
"WHAT is intellectual capital? Until now, the definition has been elusive. But in recent years, individuals and groups have begun to tackle the challenge of finding a standardised explanation. Intellectual Capital is not just human brain power but also brand names and trademarks, even assets booked at historic costs that have transformed through time into something of greater value (like a forest bought a century ago that now is prime real estate). All of these are assets which the standard balance sheet values at zero." From Intellectual Capital, by Leif Edvinsson and Michael S. Malone.

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

The US Post Office produces attractive commemorative stamps: amongst its current themes is "Celebrate the Century". The set for the 1910s, apart from the First World War, celebrates such notable achievements as the Panama Canal, Charlie Chaplin and, of course, the first crossword puzzle. This was created by Arthur Wynne, an immigrant from Liverpool who had become editor of the "Fun" supplement of The New York Sunday World, to make a change from his usual diet of anagrams and word-squares. He designed a diamond-shaped grid with a diamond-shaped hole in the middle. "Word-Cross", as he

called it, appeared on December 21, 1913, and was immediately popular. Following disruption caused by the war, a regular supply was re-established and rules began to be formulated. In 1921, Wynne passed the editorial reins to Margaret Petherbridge who gradually introduced many of the traditional characteristics of American crosswords, codified in 1924 by the Amateur Cross Word Puzzle League of America (which thereupon disbanded): the diagram must be symmetrical (under rotation), have no unchecked letters, and no more than 1/6 of its squares black. The many and varied social manifestations of the subsequent

craze have been well-documented. By 1927, according to the author Scott Fitzgerald, "a widespread neurosis began to be evident, faintly signalled, like a nervous beating of the feet, by the popularity of crossword puzzles." A pessimistic commentator suggested that "statistics of the future will undoubtedly afford evidence to prove more homes have been broken up, more follies driven to drink, more crimes committed, through the introduction of the crossword puzzle into our daily lives than through any of the catastrophes which punctuate the poignant pages of The Martyrdom of Man". The writer is Crossword Editor of The Times

VENTURI
a. A Verdi opera
b. A dodgy pipe
c. Goldfish-shaped pasta

BOSTHOON
a. A breed of dog
b. A feather bonnet
c. A clumsy clot

GETA
a. A Greek sandal
b. A Greek letter
c. A Spartan fraternity

QUESTION 1
What word connects the film roles of Professor Higgins, Dr Doolittle, Han Solo and Indiana Jones?

QUESTION 2
Can you identify the following quotation and who said it? "I am a bear of very little brain and long words bother me."

Answers on page 35

Answers on page 35

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what was said when Sir Jimmy Savile met William Hague recently.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send your "speech bubble" suggestions — only on postcards, please — with your name and address to: PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 6.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Robert A. Lyon from Dundee.



cocktail and I fear they are about to do the same again. The invitation insisted on "Strictly Black Tie" but several of the assembled company (I avoid the word gentlemen) were sporting bow ties of many hues, in fact anything but black. I had always been brought up to believe that black tie meant exactly that. Am I old-fashioned or were the others not playing with a straight bat? — Roger Hicks, Nottingham.

Q No, you just understand the rules. Ever since the great Regency dandy Beau Brummel established monochrome severity as the way to dress au soir, the combination of black (or blue black) and white has been the benchmark of elegance. This sartorial stricture is especially applicable to the tie, which should always be as black as a winter's night. Coloured bow ties are stylistically suspect and should be avoided, and as for matching bow tie and cummerbund combo, don't even think about it.

Q "We have away games. We play away matches" — The Duchess of York explains

how she and Prince Andrew manage their affairs

"I don't care if you are Alan Shearer or the Pope, you don't do something like that" — Leicester City manager Martin O'Neill criticises the Newcastle player's conduct

"I am effectively being evicted" — Paul Burrell, butler to Diana, Princess of Wales, on being told by Buckingham Palace

officials to leave his grace-and-favour home in London

"I would stake my life on the fact that he is dead" — Lady Lucan on her missing husband

"We would still like to speak to Lord Lucan in connection with our inquiries into the death of Sandra Rivett" — Scotland Yard spokesman

"I can't wait to see my dad although I know he will stink" — Alicia Hempleman-Adams, aged eight, whose father David has just skied to the North Pole

"This money is absolutely infinitesimal in comparison with the offers she has had from the very same newspapers which have been screaming loudest" — Cilla Sereny defends her decision to pay Mary Bell for collaborating with her book Cries Unheard

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

ACROSS

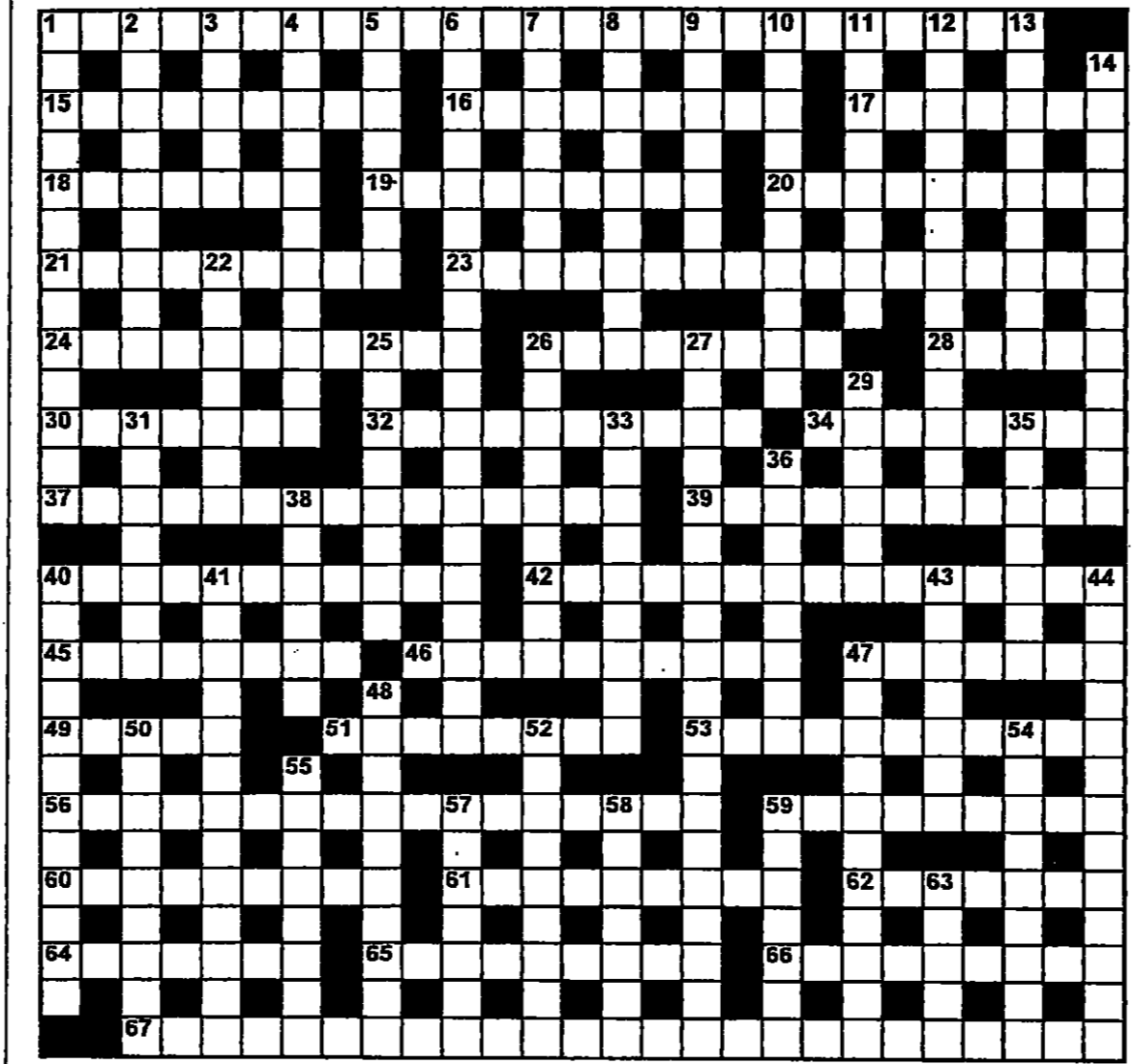
- 1 No new cowboy films being made? That's novel (3,5,2,3,7,5)
15 Happy to come across most of pub sober (9)
16 One way to end man's career on board, going by the French (2,7)
17 Welder is back, wife finally following (7)
18 A pair of duds, but very plucky (7)
19 Robbers quietly decapitated peasants (9)
20 Struggling actor to receive dole in long line (9)
21 Opera one's backed, say, gets panned (9)
23 Strength affected after confinement here? (13,4)
24 Angry, had to meet up for resolution (3,2,6)
26 In China, bird's nest products very unpleasant (8)
28 Novelist from waste amount rejected one line (5)
30 Unseasoned wood is poor value (3,4)
32 Abandon initial support for liberty Jack took (5,5)
34 It's obvious cutter's losing knots, having broken spar (8)
37 Department head almost back on case, with car (7,8)
39 Daisy sprang up here for child that's delighted (4,3,4)
40 Grim colony I organised, providing offenders' discipline (11)
42 Description of activist, currently charged with striking (5,3,7)
45 A French divine one left struggling, but without resentment (8)
46 Church has seraph — no money spare for swap (10)
47 Darken pleasure? (7)
49 Groans get horses to cover mare (5)
51 Creates crossword competition all parts of Britain are said to follow (8)
53 Breathless, I fail to settle again (11)
56 King has speech to introduce deserving poet (7,10)
59 Forceful jazz trumpeter changed sections (6-3)
60 Disaster — millions have abandoned use of meditation (9)
61 A quiet moment to spare for museum (9)
62 Wicked African fighters, lousy to the core (7)
64 Avoiding extremes of presumption, I honoured pensioners (7)
65 Using an opening to make introductions (9)
66 A cut back in meal-ticket — a small piece of meat (9)
67 Dykes' opening — call for help for those imperilled by water (7,6,6,2,4)

DOWN

- 1 Cardinal rule perhaps for such a major cure (13)
2 Estate worker makes carriage almost run over aristocrat (4,5)
3 Knot loose when it's reversed (5)
4 Choose new creed in which to put one stunning catch (8,3)
5 Commander gets to equipment bay, one bristling with arms (7)
6 Premises Quip seized, unlikely to have cats living there? (3,3,9,4)
7 Old map I brought in to interpret (7)
8 Segregate ingredients for seasonal treat (6,3)
9 Coming across performance of Tristan (7)
10 Leader abandoning race within race, in sensible fashion (10)
11 One may be hurt to be offered this temporary expedient (5,3)
12 Power that slipped into a more impotent form (7,6)
13 The pits aggressive drivers may unwillingly enter? (4,5)
14 Spiritual leader changes into temporal (12)
22 The rebellion by Scottish team (7)
25 Altitude I assume as god (8)
26 Painful sight indeed in fantasy film — I ran out (9)
27 Invite to visit people having a row — be too indulgent (4,3,4,3,5)
29 Simpson — fine composer (6)
31 Computer facility where one spins out one's toils? (7)
33 Being prompt, so listeners can catch poetry (9)
35 To show an example, sculptor went in for scraping (7)
36 Second smallest in litter held up by lily supplier of milk (8-5)
38 Tool is right to cut cloth (6)
40 One given parish duties, accepted with clenched teeth? (12)
41 Agent visit abandoned — I've come to like Holmes's work (13)
43 Half-human slave, short of excuse, put in prison (7)
44 To understand ideas, philosopher has to be very clear on meaning (3,3,7)
47 Deciding to prevent mineral exploitation (11)
48 Decline to put warehouse on high ground (2,8)
50 Factory block avoiding onset of millenium bug (9)
52 Building with no spire? Not Anglo-Catholic (3,6)
54 No question, in two Arabian states I picked up a lover (9)
55 Objective for which Brutus blamed Caesar, Antony said (8)
57 Almost saps twice with son dropped in lake (4,3)
58 Less crowded, but fell over? That's right (7)
59 Plant elder almost all round city (7)
63 River, inviting in opposite of cold snap (5)

BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO CROSSWORD 163

In our Bank Holiday Jumbo Crossword competition, a prize of £100 will be awarded for the first correct solution opened on Thursday, May 14, 1998. Entries to: Bank Holiday Jumbo Crossword (163), The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner and solution will be published in Weekend on Saturday, May 16



NAME ADDRESS POSTCODE

Times Two Crossword Bank Holiday Jumbo

There is no prize for this crossword. The solution will be published on Monday, May 4

- ACROSS
1 Witches' first question (Macbeth) (4,5,2,5,4,5)
15 Leave behind again (2-7)
16 Power (arch.); showjumping test (9)
17 Get, make, better (7)
18 Mean time (7)
19 Of the body (9)
20 Reversal (9)
21 Peanut (9)
23 (National) independence (4-13)
24 S Pacific island group (11)
26 Accompanying this (8)
28 (Mus.) spreads (5)
30 Measure of disorder (phys.) (7)
32 Cook's mias (4-6)
34 Eirenic (8)
37 Old megaphone (8-7)
39 Zen drinking ritual (3,8)
40 (Painted) illusion of reality (6-5)
42 At the very last minute (2,3,4,2,4)
45 One bequeathing (8)
46 18C wide-brimmed, decorated headgear (7,3)
47 Irish county; TV doctor once (7)
49 Release (3,2)
51 Scholarly interpretation (8)
53 US gallantry award; tree; amphetamine (6,5)
56 Medical-dishonesty play (Shaw) (3,7,7)
59 S. Am. plated mammal (9)
60 Renegades (9)
61 Most feeble (excuse) (9)
62 Capital of Assyria (7)
64 Inherited-character evolution theorist (7)
65 In disguise (9)
66 Doesn't cheat (5,4)
67 One precociously wise (2,3,4,2,5,9)
DOWN
1 Preliminary drafts (7,6)
2 Sums extorted (9)
3 Set of steps (5)
4 In the stomach (11)
5 A print using floor-covering (7)
6 NY skyscraper, world's tallest one (6,5,8)
7 Eg Macassar (4,3)
8 Cockney; soap character (4-5)
9 Short sleeveless cloak (7)
10 Voters collectively (10)
11 Polluting showers (4,4)
12 Radioactive He nucleus (5,8)
13 Newly-coined word (9)
14 Every seven years (12)
22 Broadlands county (7)
25 Less rough (8)
26 Summit, climax (4,5)
27 At the crunch point (4,3,5,3,4)
29 Adorn (6)
31 Quakes (7)
33 Forces (one) to drop gaze (9)
35 The Everglade state (7)
36 Metal container (8)
38 Copenhagen, Nile victor (6)
40 Gossip (6-6)
41 Eg Beethoven's Emperor (5,8)
43 Stole pettily (7)
44 Device inducing static so hop, lecturer (anag.) (13)
47 Africa's highest mountain (11)
48 Conveying emotion (10)
50 Black Sea peninsula (3,6)
52 Parting with at profit (7,2)
54 Make (pain) less severe (9)
55 Invaded (8)
58 Disfigured (7)
59 One of Span./Am. Indian parentage (7)
59 The Herod who killed the Baptist; at pains (anag.) (7)
63 Of the nose (5)

Advertisement for Family free in Yemen, listing various services and prices like TV & RADIO, WEATHER, CROSSWORDS, etc.

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